

VIRGINIA WILDLIFE

January 2004

TWO DOLLARS



2004 Trout Guide





Director's Column

William L. Woodfin, Jr

For the first time in 30 years, the 2004 Session of the Virginia General Assembly will convene on January 14th without one of the best-known conservationists in the state being present. Delegate A. Victor Thomas, the long-time legislative voice for hundreds of thousands of hunters, anglers, boaters, and wildlife enthusiasts, decided to retire from the Virginia House of Delegates following the 2003 Session. He had represented the 17th District (part of Roanoke and Botetourt Counties and part of Roanoke City) since 1974 and served as the Chairman of the House Conservation and Natural Resources Committee for over two decades.

Over the years, Delegate Thomas has played a monumental role in helping to conserve and to protect Virginia's rich hunting and fishing heritage for all sportsmen and women across the Old Dominion. He was very instrumental just a few years ago in the passage of legislation (House Bill 38) that addressed much needed funding for the Department of Game and Inland Fisheries to benefit wildlife-related recreational opportunities for hunters, anglers, and wildlife enthusiasts. Not that long ago, he worked closely with Senator Creigh Deeds to move forward the idea that the Constitution of Virginia should be amended to include the right to hunt and to fish. And he worked hard to have the voters of Virginia pass that amendment because he knew it was the right thing to do. More recently, he sponsored legislation that allows hunters in Virginia, when purchasing their hunting license, to voluntarily donate \$2 to the Hunters for the Hungry program. And again he worked



very hard to have this legislation passed—because he knew it was the right thing to do.

Delegate Thomas's time in the General Assembly can be characterized by a couple of consistent themes—first and foremost he was the ultimate friend and supporter of Virginia's sportsmen and sportswomen. Second, but equally important, was that he could always be counted on to do the right thing. When you combine those two themes, it's easy to understand why Virginia's wildlife and other natural resources are much better today than they were 30 years ago.

After 15 terms in the House of Delegates, Vic Thomas has much to be proud of. There's an entire state of sportsmen who will miss him greatly. He has been a leader and an icon for all who care about the outdoors, and it has been an absolute honor for me to have worked with him and to be able to call him my friend.

Vic, we wish you well and we thank you for a job well done. We sincerely appreciate all of your contributions to our outdoor experiences, and we hope you enjoy having the time to do more hunting and fishing. But we want you to know that we miss you already!

Mission Statement

To manage Virginia's wildlife and inland fish to maintain optimum populations of all species to serve the needs of the Commonwealth; to provide opportunity for all to enjoy wildlife, inland fish, boating and related outdoor recreation; to promote safety for persons and property in connection with boating, hunting and fishing.

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About the cover: The rainbow trout (*Oncorhynchus mykiss*) is the most common of the three trout stocked in Virginia. They have a higher tolerance to a wide range of water temperatures and are easier to rear than brook and brown trout. The current state record for rainbow trout is held by Michael Lowe, and was caught in Greers Trout Pond in Chilhowie. It weighed a whopping 14 pounds, 7 ounces. ©Michael Simon

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Dedicated to the Conservation of Virginia's Wildlife and Natural Resources



If you're looking for that pot of gold at the end of the rainbow you might just find it full of colorful trout.

story and photos by King Montgomery

Virginia is seamed with 2,800 miles of trout streams and rivers, and dotted with numerous ponds and lakes that harbor brown, rainbow and our native brook trout. These beautiful fish can be caught either by spin-fishing or by fly-fishing; I'll pass along some general tips that can help your trout angling, whichever method you choose.

The best place to begin your trout fishing journey, whether you're a neophyte or accomplished pro, is here in the pages of the *Virginia Wildlife* magazine's annual Trout Guide. The Guide outlines all of the public trout waters in the Old Dominion, and it tells you the regulations that govern trout fishing. Next, you'll need to learn how to spin or fly-fish if you don't already, how to read the water to determine where the trout live, and how to present the lure or fly in a convincing manner so

that it is snapped up by the waiting quarry.

Casting accuracy will greatly improve your chances of success on the water. Tie on a plastic practice spinning lure, and throw it around your yard or at the park down the street. For the fly rod, tie on a small piece of string or yarn to the leader and cast on the lawn. Try casts of varying lengths, and always strive for accuracy rather than distance. Enlist a family member or friend who fishes to help and guide you; fishing is a



solid fishing knot—I like an improved clinch knot—and find a place to trout fish.

Trout like small in-line spinners such as those made by Mepps, Panther Martin, and others; they also hit small spoons in silver, gold or red/white; and sometimes a diminutive crankbait is the ticket to the trout-catching show of the day. A 1-inch plastic grub on a $\frac{1}{8}$ - or $\frac{1}{16}$ -ounce jig works well at times too. Check out the lure selection at your local sporting goods or tackle store, and the wares in various mail-order houses, such as Bass Pro Shops (1-800-227-7776, www.basspro.com), Orvis (1-800-541-3541, www.orvis.com), L. L. Bean (1-800-221-4221, www.llbean.com), and Cabela's (1-800-237-4444, www.cabelas.com)

Trout also eat earthworms, other terrestrial insects, salmon eggs, cheeseballs, small marshmallows and kernels of corn. They like some of the fortified artificial baits such as Berkeley's Power Trout Bait. Bait is forbidden in many waters so check the regulations before using it. I believe most fish caught on bait take

Right: Fly-fishing for trout has become very popular over the years. Most anglers will find that all you need is a dry pair of waders, a fly rod, reel and line, an endless supply of flies, and a good-luck fishing cap.



The brown trout (*Salmo trutta*) was first introduced into the United States in 1883. Some 80,000 eggs were shipped from Germany to a hatchery in New York. In Virginia, Mossy Creek and the Jackson and Smith rivers are just a few of the places you will find these prized game fish.

great way to spend quality time with family and friends.

Numerous how-to books, videos/CDs, and some of those weekend TV fishing shows give useful information on mechanics, tactics and techniques that help you get started and help improve your skills once you have the basics. But the best way to build on what you know from practice on land is to do it on the stream. Once you can cast accurately, tie the lure to the line with a



Above: The Old Dominion is home to 2,800 miles of trout streams and thousands of avid trout anglers.



the hook deep enough to call the fish's survival into question. Besides, in my opinion, it's more sporting and fun to fool a trout into taking an artificial lure or fly, then release it to be caught again another day.

Fly-fishing is the most challenging way to catch trout, and also the most difficult to learn to do well. In fly-fishing, the line itself provides weight for the cast, not the lure or bait at the end of it, and the subsequent presentation of the fly, if done properly, results in the quietest and most natural of all the angling methods. Trout fishing is one of the few kinds of sportfishing where fly-anglers often catch more than spinfishers using lures.

Fly-fishing can also be expensive, but today there are a number of good, yet relatively inexpensive fly rods, reels, line, leaders and flies you can choose from. If you're a beginner, I recommend starting with casting lessons from a professional;



Top: Two lucky anglers uncover the long-lost secret of what's at the end of a rainbow. Above: Mossy Creek in Augusta County, a special regulation trophy trout stream (page 25), is one of Virginia's finest examples of a classic limestone stream surrounded by beautiful rolling hills and pastures.

good instruction will save you time and aggravation, and is fun in the process.

Fly lines either float or sink at different rates to carry the fly on top toward the bottom. A floating line serves for the majority of fly-fishing for trout in the Commonwealth. Flies float (dry flies, poppers), sink just under the surface (wet flies, emergers), swim in the water column (streamers) or bump along or near the bottom (nymphs). Most fly patterns mimic creatures that trout eat, such as aquatic or terrestrial insects in various stages of their life cycles, or small fish such as minnows and other bait and young-of-the-year gamefishes. Trout also eat eggs of other trout, suckers and the like. The trick is to find what the trout

want; I like to start on top and work down in the water column.

The size of the water usually dictates the size of the spinning or fly tackle. Small streams call for lighter, shorter rods and light lines. Spinning rods of 5 to 5 ½ feet and 4 pound test line are usually adequate; and fly anglers find that 6 to 7 foot rods for a 2 or 3 weight line and tippets in the 5x, 6x range work well. (Tippets are the last few feet of a leader; the clear strand attached to the end of the fly line, to which you tie the fly.) Medium streams/small rivers and ponds are fished with 5 ½ to 6 foot spinning rods with 4 to 6 pound test line; and fly rods in the 7 to 8 foot range are good for 3 or 4 weight lines and 4x to 5x tippets. Larger rivers and lakes call for spin-

ning rods of 6 to 7 foot lengths using 6 to 8 pound test line; and 8 to 9 foot fly rods for 5 and 6 weight lines with 3x to 4x tippets.

Casting accuracy and stream know-how—where the trout are apt to be in a body of water—are keys to finding and catching trout. Trout station along current seams, behind rocks and other cover, in aquatic vegetation edges, and along undercut banks. Sometimes they cruise looking for a meal, and other times they hug the bottom waiting for food to float by. Cast your lure or fly accordingly, vary the retrieve, keep changing tactics until something works, be patient, and you will catch trout.

Practice catch-and-release using barbless hooks. If you take trout, keep only what you will eat fresh. Pick up after yourself and others. And have a lot of fun along the way.

King Montgomery is a writer/photographer from Burke and a frequent contributor to Virginia Wildlife. If you're interested in trout conservation and are looking for people to fish with, contact Trout Unlimited at (703) 522-0200 or see www.tu.org. TU's mission is to "conserve, protect and restore North America's coldwater fisheries and their watersheds."



Much of the allure of fishing for trout derives from a need to learn more about these beautiful fish and their relationship to our environment.



2004 Trout Guide

Introduction

by Larry Mohn
VDGIF Fisheries Regional
Manager
illustrations by Spike Knuth

Virginia contains over 2,800 miles of trout streams, in addition to numerous ponds, small lakes and reservoirs. The total includes over 2,300 miles of wild trout streams and about 600 miles of water inhabited with stocked trout. Virginia's diversified trout habitat offers a wide range of trout fishing opportunities.

Virginia's warm climate and topography generally limit trout habitat to the western portion of the state. The Blue Ridge and Allegheny mountains provide the elevation to maintain low water temperatures year-round, while the valleys between these ranges contain the unique limestone formations necessary to produce highly productive spring creeks.

Trout management in Virginia consists of three basic programs. The Catchable Trout Stocking Program is the best known and most popular. Such waters are stocked from October through May with catchable-sized trout. See the Trout Stocking Plan on pages 14-15 for the streams and lakes stocked and their stocking schedule.

The Wild Trout Program includes the management of reproducing populations of brook, rainbow and brown trout. Efforts are directed primarily at habitat preservation and proper regulation for protection of spawning stocks.

The Fingerling Trout Stocking Program involves stocking sublegal trout into waters that have cold summer water temperatures and a good food source. This is the smallest of the three programs but includes many of our high quality, special regulation trout fishing waters.

Restrictions have been applied to certain wild trout waters, as well as several types of stocked trout streams, to provide anglers with the opportunity to catch more and larger trout throughout the fishing season. These special regulation areas include some of the state's best trout waters and are described in detail in this guide.

The trout season is open year-round in Virginia. Fishing success for both wild and stocked trout should be very high through the spring, fall and mild winter periods. From June through September, normally low stream flows and warming water temperatures make trout



Brown trout

fishing more difficult. However, experienced trout anglers can find good trout fishing opportunities throughout the year.

All stocked, special regulation, and larger wild trout waters are featured on the five maps beginning on page 27 in this special issue.

New For 2004

The Department was not scheduled to consider fish regulations changes this year, therefore, no new regulations go into effect in 2004. Changes to this year's program include loss of several waters to the catchable trout stocking program and changes in the frequency of stocking for selected waters.

The following streams will be dropped from the stocking program due to posting by landowners. Most of these waters have seen a gradual loss of available stream length over several years until there is no longer sufficient water remaining to provide for public fishing. Waters no longer included in the stocking plan are: Laurel Fork (Carroll County), Howells Creek (Floyd County), Maggodee Creek (Franklin County), South Fork Roanoke River (Montgomery County), Shoemaker River (Rockingham County) and Cripple Creek, Rt. 94 (Wythe County).

In addition to the loss of the above waters due to posting, the North Fork of Barbours Creek (Craig County) will no longer be stocked. This stream contains native brook trout and future management for the stream will feature the wild trout population. Also, Philpott Lake (Henry County) will no longer be stocked. This lake has been stocked once a year for many years in an attempt to maintain a lake trout fishery. However, heavy predation of stocked trout by bass and walleyes and very limited summer habitat has resulted in limited success. The trophy trout regulation will be removed from the lake during the next regulation cycle.

Both Pandapas Pond (Montgomery County) and Rural Retreat Pond (Wythe County) have been up-

graded from Category B to Category A. This will mean an additional three stockings for each pond. Mira Fork (Floyd County) has been downgraded from a Category B to Category C due to restricted time periods permitted for stocking. This will mean one less stocking for this water.

Catchable Trout Stocking Program

As in most states, put-and-take trout fishing draws the most interest and attention in Virginia, probably because of the availability of catchable-sized trout and ease of capture. Virginia's catchable program is supported by hatcheries located at Marion, Paint Bank and Wytheville. Three additional rearing facilities are located at Marion, Montebello and Williamsville.

Trout eggs are collected from large brood stock in early fall and placed in incubator trays which maintain an even flow of well-oxygenated water through the eggs. Once the embryo is developed, trays must be constantly cleaned and dead eggs removed to control disease. After 25–30 days the trout begin to hatch. The small "fry," as

they are called, remain attached to their egg sacs for about 14 days, and draw their food from it. The fry are kept indoors in small troughs until their sacs are absorbed and they begin taking small, pelleted food. When they reach a suitable fingerling stage (2–3 inches) they are transported to rearing facilities where they are placed in raceways.

The fish are fed several times daily for at least a year until they reach catchable size (9–11 inches). During this rearing period, it is necessary to clean raceways daily to control disease and occasionally grade fish to ensure that the larger trout will not eat smaller ones.

The program is covered primarily from the sale of trout licenses. In addition to a valid state freshwater fishing license, a trout license is required to legally fish in designated stocked trout waters. Annual output from the program is approximately 1,250,000 catchable trout, in addition to variable numbers of fingerling and subcatchable trout used in other programs.

By January 1, most streams on the stocking list will have already received at least one stocking and will continue to be stocked through spring. Stockings will be discontinued by the end of May and will resume after October 1. Streams and lakes will be stocked at various inter-



©Dwight Dyke

vals, depending on their potential to hold trout during the late spring and early fall. Fishermen should find that most streams have good numbers of trout throughout the stocking season.

Waters to be stocked are listed by county in the *Trout Stocking Plan* (see pages 14–15). The plan indicates the frequency of stocking and the specific stocking periods for each stream. Call your local VDGIF office for more information. For daily trout stocking updates during stocking season, call **1-434-525-FISH (3474)** or check our Web site at www.dgif.state.va.us.

Stocked trout streams are marked with appropriate signs, which identify the portion of stream stocked. Marked sections are open to public fishing, in accordance with agreements between the Department and private landowners. This is the only case where anglers are not required to have landowner permission before fishing on private water.

Special Regulations

Fee Fishing Areas

The fee fishing areas offer put-and-take trout fishing with the added advantage that trout are stocked several times weekly throughout the season. The fee fishing program operates from the first Saturday in April through September at Clinch Mountain and Crooked Creek and from the first Saturday in April through June 15 and from September 15 through October 31 at Douthat. For those anglers who miss

the opening day of trout season, the fee fishing areas still provide this opportunity on the first Saturday in April when they open at 9:00 a.m. During the fee fishing season, a daily permit is required in addition to a valid Virginia freshwater fishing license. After the fee fishing season, these areas revert to designated stocked trout waters and a trout license is required instead of the daily permit. The creel limit at these areas is six fish per day.

Clinch Mountain Fee Fishing Area

The Clinch Mountain Fee Fishing Area is located in southwest Virginia, about 7 miles west of Saltville. The area consists of approximately 7 miles of Big Tumbling Creek and its two major tributaries, Briar Cove Creek and Laurel Bed Creek. Big Tumbling Creek is a large, steep gradient stream with numerous small

waterfalls and large, deep rocky pools. The two tributaries are much smaller with a more moderate gradient. Laurel Bed Lake is no longer part of the fee fishing program and does not require the daily permit. However, the lake continues to be managed for trout as well as for flow augmentation for Big Tumbling Creek. Trout are stocked daily (except Sunday) throughout the fee period in the streams, and fishing begins at 6 a.m. daily, except for opening day. Camping is available at the area and VDGIF owns and manages the surrounding land.

Crooked Creek Fee Fishing Area

Crooked Creek is located in Carroll County, 5 miles east of Galax. The area consists of 5 miles of stream, which is stocked. In addition, approxi-



Brook trout

mately 2 miles of the stream is managed as a wild trout fishery. Crooked Creek is a wide, fairly low gradient stream with a gravel bottom. The surrounding land is mixed fields and woodlots, not characteristic of the more common mountain stream drainages. Fishing must cease at 7 p.m. to allow for restocking. No camping facilities are available at Crooked Creek, but private facilities are available nearby.

Douthat Lake Fee Fishing Area

The Douthat Fee Fishing Area was expanded several years ago to include about 4 miles of Wilson Creek along with the stocking of 60-acre Douthat Lake. This fee fishing area has two features designed to encourage children to participate. A small "children-only" area has been established on Wilson Creek, just below the dam. In addition, children 12 years of age and under can fish without a permit throughout the fee-fishing area as long as they are accompanied by a permitted adult and their combined creel does not exceed that of the adult. The lake provides fishing for bass, bluegill, crappie, pickerel and catfish, in addition to trout, which are stocked twice weekly. During most summer months, conditions become unfavorable for trout stocking. Therefore, at Douthat, the fee fishing season runs from the first Saturday in April through June 15 and from September 15 through October 31. From June 16 through September 14, no trout will be stocked and no daily fee or trout license is required although trout fishing opportunities will remain for trout still present in the lake from previous stockings. The lake, stream and surrounding land are located within Douthat State Park and are administered by the Virginia Division of State Parks. Available recreation includes camping, hiking and swimming in addition to fishing. Cabins are also available for rent if application is made well in advance. The park is located in a beautiful mountain setting with most of the

surrounding land within the George Washington National Forest.

Delayed Harvest Trout Streams

This program incorporates aspects of both catch-and-release and put-and-take trout fishing. Catchable-sized trout are stocked in the fall, winter and spring. From October 1 through the following May 31, only artificial lures may be used, and all fish must be returned unharmed. From June 1 through September 30 general trout regulations are in effect and trout may be creeled. A trout license is required to fish these waters from October 1 through June 15.

Accotink Creek (Fairfax County)

The delayed harvest section of Accotink Creek extends from Route 236 (Little River Turnpike) downstream 1.9 miles to Route 620 (Braddock Road). This stream section is bound by a Fairfax County Park Authority (FCPA) floodplain park that belies the stream's urban setting (the upper boundary is adjacent to the Capital Beltway). The stream contains numerous riffle-run-pool sequences with good holding pools, and it has an abundance of large woody debris. Primary access is via the FCPA Wakefield Park facility off Braddock Road.

Back Creek (Bath County)

The rugged mountains that form the backdrop to the Back Creek special regulation area are one of the area's most appealing features. The stream is about 25 feet in width with moderate gradient and excellent fly-fishing opportunities. The stream has been extensively reconstructed to improve trout habitat by Dominion Virginia Power, who constructed a pump storage facility just upstream. The land adjacent to this stream section is managed for recreation by Dominion Virginia Power. In addition to trout fishing, the area

offers a campground, picnic pavilion, outdoor games and two warmwater lakes for fishing and swimming. Take Route 39 west from Warm Springs to Mountain Grove, then right on Route 600 for 6 miles.

Chestnut Creek (Carroll County)

Chestnut Creek was established as a delayed harvest water in 2001. The managed section begins at Route 793 north of Galax and extends downstream 2.3 miles to the confluence with the New River. The stream parallels the New River Trail State Park, which offers a unique hiking or biking opportunity to access the many rock ledges and large pools common in this reach of stream. Parking is limited, but available at the Route 793 bridge. In addition to the state park, many private landowners have made this program possible, and anglers should be sure to respect adjoining private property.

Hardware River (Fluvanna County)

Although located in Virginia's piedmont region, the rocky outcrops, cliffs and steep banks of Hardware River resemble a mountain stream. This aesthetically pleasing section of river, located within the Hardware River Wildlife Management Area (WMA), will likely become a favorite destination for trout anglers. The special regulation area covers a 2.6 mile section of the Hardware River from Muleshoe Bend downstream to the Route 646 bridge. From the west, the river and the Hardware River WMA is accessed by taking Route 6 east from Scottsville then turning right onto Route 611 to the Kidd's Mill Road parking area. To access the eastern portion of the WMA, continue east on Route 6 and turn right onto Route 646. Detailed maps and information on the Hardware River WMA can be obtained from any of the Department's offices or from the Department's Web page.

Holliday Creek (Appomattox/Buckingham Counties)

The Holliday Creek delayed harvest section is located completely within the Appomattox/Buckingham State Forest. The 2.8 mile section stretches from just above Holliday Lake upstream to Route 640. The stream is approximately 15–25 feet in width and runs through a remote, heavily wooded section of forest that can be accessed by taking Route 24 north out of Appomattox to Route 626. Anglers should turn onto Routes 640 or 614 to access a series of foot trails to the stream that have been developed by the Forestry Department. Despite the fact that this stream is located in the piedmont of Virginia, anglers will be surprised by the quality of the fishing experience available.

Holmes Run (Fairfax County)

Holmes Run, below Lake Barcroft, boasts some amazing habitat for an urban stream. Much of this may be due to the lake's buffering of storm water and silt loads. Consequently, Holmes Run in the 1.2 mile stretch between the Barcroft Dam and the Alexandria line is more characteristic of a less impacted, natural stream. The stream valley is incised, and during months when the forest canopy is intact; urban sounds and sights are nearly eliminated. Anglers will find good fish cover in the form of bedrock, boulders and large woody debris. A fairly good trail follows (and sometimes crosses) the stream from the parking lot off Columbia Pike (Route 244).

North Fork of Pound River and Pound River (Wise County)

The delayed harvest section begins at the base of the North Fork of Pound Dam and extends downstream about 2 miles to the confluence of Indian Creek. Above Route 23, the North Fork of the Pound River is a medium-sized stream with shallow runs and riffles flowing through fields and woodlots. Down-

stream of Route 23 the river passes through the town of Pound, gaining size and flow, and taking on a more urban setting. Access is available at the North Fork of Pound Dam and at parking lots within the town of Pound. This stream provides high catch rates and good fishing opportunities from October through early summer.

North River (Augusta County)

The delayed harvest section of the North River extends from the base of Elkhorn Dam downstream 1.5 miles to the head of the Staunton City Reservoir. This is a remote section of stream that can only be reached by foot trail. Access is available by parking at Elkhorn Lake and following the trail along the lake to the spillway. This area provides a remote, scenic fishing opportunity during the winter and spring months. Stream flow in the North River is usually low during summer and fall, and the fall trout stocking is often delayed until adequate water flow is available.

Passage Creek (Warren County)

The delayed harvest section of Passage Creek extends from the

Warren County line downstream approximately 1 mile through the Department's Front Royal Fish Hatchery. This section of stream is immediately downstream of the area that has historically been stocked under the put-and-take program. Parking is available on Forest Service lands adjacent to Route 678 or on Department lands adjacent to Route 613.

Pedlar River (Amherst County)

The Pedlar River delayed harvest section is 2.7 miles in length and is located below the Lynchburg City Reservoir in the George Washington National Forest, southeast of Buena Vista. Anglers should be prepared for a considerable walk to the stream in steep terrain. The stream contains abundant deep pool and run habitat during the winter, spring and early summer months, and it provides great fly fishing opportunities. Water levels during the late summer and fall months can be low due to a lack of water leaving the reservoir. The Forest Service and the Department have cooperated in the development of three access sites to the river located along FS 39 off Route 607.



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Catchable Trout Stocking Plan

Several changes have occurred within the catchable trout program for 2004. The following waters will be dropped from the stocking program due to posting by landowners. Most of these waters have seen a gradual loss of available stream length over several years until there is no longer sufficient water remaining to provide for public fishing. Waters no longer included in the stocking plan are: Laurel Fork (Carroll County), Howells Creek (Floyd County), Maggodee Creek (Franklin County), South Fork Roanoke River (Montgomery County), Shoemaker River (Rockingham County) and Cripple Creek, Rt. 94 (Wythe County). Also, the North Fork of Barbours Creek (Craig County) will no longer be stocked. This stream contains native brook trout and future management for the stream will feature the wild trout population.

A few changes have been made in stocked trout water categories. Both Pandapas Pond (Montgomery County) and Rural Retreat Pond (Wythe County) have been upgraded from Category B to Category A. This will mean an additional three stockings for each pond. Mira Fork (Floyd County) has been downgraded from a Category B to Category C due to restricted time periods permitted for stocking. This will mean one less stocking for this water.

Finally, a reminder about Trout Heritage Day. This program was added three years ago for those anglers who enjoyed and missed the old opening day. Selected waters are stocked for the first Saturday in April to create an announced stocking event. The Heritage Day waters for 2004 remain the same as last year and are listed on page 16. These streams and lakes are closed to fishing Friday, April 2nd for stocking and will re-open to fishing at 9:00 a.m. on Saturday April 3rd.

Roanoke River (Roanoke County and City of Salem)

There are two delayed harvest sections located on the Roanoke River near Roanoke. The first section is located within Green Hill Park in Roanoke County and was established in 2001, and the newest section is located within the City of Salem and was established in 2003. The Green Hill Park section is easily found off Route 11/460 west of Salem and stretches from the Route 760 Bridge (Diguids Lane) upstream 1 mile to a sign posted at the upper end of the park. It is best to access the stream from the park side of the stream, and anglers are encouraged to use the parking areas provided. In addition to trout fishing, Green Hill Park offers picnic facilities and other recreational opportunities for family activities. The Salem section is located along Riverside Drive and stretches from the Colorado Street Bridge downstream approximately 2 miles to the Route 419 bridge. This section of delayed harvest water is

most easily accessed from the River-side Drive side of the river. Both of these sections are located in an urban setting and provide big stream fishing in a pleasant environment. The stream is approximately 50-75 feet in width and has ample riffle/run habitat for wade fishing, as well as pool habitat for anglers who prefer bank fishing.

South River (Augusta County)

The delayed harvest section extends from the Second Street bridge in Waynesboro upstream 2.4 miles to the base of Rife Loth Dam. This stream section runs through the city of Waynesboro and is in an urban setting. South River is a relatively large, wide stream with shallow runs and riffles. The stream provides outstanding fly-fishing opportunities because of its size and its abundance of aquatic insects. The stream is open to fishing year-round and provides excellent winter fishing.



©Dwight Dyke

Catchable Trout

These waters require a trout license

ALBEMARLE COUNTY

Mint Springs Lake (Upper)	B	
Mint Springs Lake (Middle)	B	
Moormans River (N. Fork)	B	(NSF)
Moormans River (S. Fork)	B	(NSF)
Sugar Hollow Reservoir	A	

ALLEGHANY COUNTY

Clifton Forge Reservoir*	A	
Jerrys Run*	C	
Pounding Mill Creek*	B	
Smith Creek*	C	(NSF)

AMHERST COUNTY

Davis Mill Creek*	C	
Little Irish Creek*	C	(NSF)
Pedlar River (Below dam)*	DH	
Pedlar River (Lower)*	A	
Pedlar River (Upper)*	B	(H)
Piney River (S. Fk. and Proper)*	B	(NSF)
Rocky Row Run*	C	

APPOMATTOX COUNTY

Holliday Creek	DH	
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AUGUSTA COUNTY

Back Creek*	B	
Braley Pond*	A	
Elkhorn Lake*	A	
Falls Hollow*	C	(NSF)
Hearthstone Lake*	A	
Lower Sherando Lake*	A	
Mills Creek*	C	
North River (Natural Chimneys)	B	
North River (Gorge)*	B	
North River (Upper)*	B	(NSF)
North River (Tail)*	DH	
South River	DH	
Upper Sherando Lake*	A	

BATH COUNTY

Back Creek	DH	
Back Creek*	B	
Bullpasture River	A	
Douthat Lake and Wilson Creek	+	
Jackson River Special Reg.*		
Jackson River (Hidden Valley)*	A	
Jackson River (Rt. 623)*	A	
Pads Creek*	C	
Spring Run	A	

BEDFORD COUNTY

Liberty Lake	A	(H)
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BLAND COUNTY

Laurel Fork Creek	C	
Lick Creek	B	
Wolf Creek	A	

BOTETOURT COUNTY

Jennings Creek*	A	(H)
McFalls Creek*	C	
Middle Creek*	B	
North Creek*	B	
Roaring Run*	B	

BUCHANAN COUNTY

Dismal River	A	
Russell Fork River	C	

CARROLL COUNTY

Chestnut Creek	DH	
Crooked Creek	A	**
Little Reed Island Creek	A	
Lovills Creek	C	
Stewarts Creek	B	(NSF)

CRAIG COUNTY

Barbours Creek*	B	(NSF)
Potts Creek*	A	

DICKENSON COUNTY

Cranesnest River	B	
Frying Pan Creek	C	
Pound River (Flannagan Dam)	A	
Russell Fork River (Haysi)	B	
Russell Fork River (Bartlick)	A	

FAIRFAX COUNTY

Accotink Creek	DH	
Holmes Run	DH	

FAUQUIER COUNTY

Thompson WMA Pond	A	
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FLOYD COUNTY

Burkes Fork	A	
Goose Creek	C	
Laurel Fork	B	
Little Indian Creek	B	(NSF)
Little River	A	
Mira Fork	C	(NSF)
Rush Fork	C	(NSF)
West Fork Little River	B	(NSF)

FLUVANNA COUNTY

Hardware River	DH	
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FRANKLIN COUNTY

Runnett Bag Creek	B	
Pigg River	A	

FREDERICK COUNTY

Clearbrook Lake	A	
Hogue Creek	B	
Paddy Run*	B	
Winchester Lake	A	

GILES COUNTY

Big Stoney Creek*	A	
Dismal Creek*	B	(NSF)

GRAYSON COUNTY

Big Wilson Creek	A	
Elk Creek	A	
Fox Creek*	B	
Hales Lake*	A	
Helton Creek	B	
Middle Fox Creek	B	

GREENE COUNTY

South River	B	
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HENRY COUNTY

Smith River (Dam)	
Smith River (Lower)	

HIGHLAND COUNTY

Bullpasture River	
S. Br. Potomac River	

LEE COUNTY

Martins Creek	
North Fork Powell River	

MADISON COUNTY

Hughes River	
Robinson River	
Rose River	

MONTGOMERY COUNTY

Craig Creek*	
Pandapas Pond*	
Poverty Creek*	
Toms Creek	

NELSON COUNTY

South Rockfish River	
Tye River	

PAGE COUNTY

Cub Run*	
Hawksbill Creek	
Upper Passage Creek*	

PATRICK COUNTY

Ararat River	
Clarks Creek	
Dan River (Above Talbott)	
Dan River (Below Powerhouse)	
Poorhouse Creek	
Rockcastle Creek	
Round Meadow Creek	
South Mayo River (North Fork)	
South Mayo River (South Fork)	

PRINCE WILLIAM COUNTY

Quantico MCB	
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PULASKI COUNTY

Peak Creek	
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ROANOKE COUNTY

Glade Creek	
Roanoke River (City)	
Roanoke River (Green Hill Pa)	
Roanoke River (Salem)	
Roanoke River (Salem)	
Tinker Creek	

ROCKBRIDGE COUNTY

Irish Creek*	
Maury River	
Mill Creek*	
South River	

ROCKINGHAM COUNTY

Briery Branch Lake*	
Dry River	
German River	
Hone Quarry Lake*	

Stocking Plan

between October 1 and June 15

B	Hone Quarry Run*	C	
A	North Fork Shenandoah River	B	
	Silver Lake	B	
	Slate Lick Lake*	B	
A	Slate Lick Run*	B	
B	South River (Grottoes)	A	
	RUSSELL COUNTY		
A	Big Cedar Creek	A	
A	SCOTT COUNTY		
	Bark Camp Lake*	A	(H)
	Big Stony Creek	B	
A	Little Stony Creek*	B	
A	Stock Creek	C	
A	Straight Fork (Lower)	C	
	SHENANDOAH COUNTY		
B	Mill Creek	B	
A	Passage Creek*	A	(H)
C	Peters Mill Creek*	C	
B	Stony Creek	A	
	Tomahawk Pond*	B	
C	(NSF)		
A	SMYTH COUNTY		
	Comers Creek*	C	
	Cressy Creek*	C	
B	Dickey Creek*	C	
B	Hurricane Creek*	C	
C	Middle Fork Holston River		
	(Marion)	A	(H)
B	Middle Fork Holston River		
B	(Upper)	B	
B	South Fork Holston River		
(NSF)	(Buller Dam)*	A	
A	South Fork Holston River		
C	(Lower)	A	
B	Staley Creek	A	
C	(NSF)		
C	STAUNTON CITY		
C	Lake Tams	B	
	TAZEWELL COUNTY		
B	Lake Witten	A	(H)
	Laurel Creek*	C	
B	Lincolnshire Lake	A	(H)
	Little Tumbling Creek	B	
	WARREN COUNTY		
A	Happy Creek	B	
DH	Passage Creek	DH	
A	WASHINGTON COUNTY		
DH	Beartree Lake*	A	(H)
A	Big Brumley Creek	C	
	Big Tumbling Creek	A	**
	Straight Branch*	C	
B	Tennessee Laurel	A	
A	Valley Creek	C	
A	Whitetop Laurel (Lower)*	A	
B	Whitetop Laurel (Upper)*	A	
	WISE COUNTY		
A	Clear Creek*	C	
B	Middle Fork Powell River	B	
C	Pound River/N.Fk. Pound River	DH	
A			

WYTHE COUNTY

Cripple Creek (Ravens)	A	(H)
Gullion Fork Ponds*	B	
Rural Retreat Lake Pond	A	
Stoney Creek*	C	
West Fork Reed Creek*	C	

Category A, stocked in each of the following periods: October (once), November or December (once), January or February; (once), March (twice), April (twice), and May (once).

Category B, stocked in each of the following periods: November or December (once), January or February (once), March (once), and April-May 15 (twice).

Category C, stocked three times between October and April 30.

* National Forest Waters

+ Douthat stocked as Category A, Wilson as Category B put-and-take water after fee fishing season

DH Delayed Harvest Water-Special Regulations apply, please refer to article on Delayed Harvest, this issue.

(NSF) These waters **do not** receive fall & early winter stockings

** A section of these waters is reserved for a fee fishing area

(H) These waters will receive a stocking for the "Heritage Day" program. Heritage Day is April 5. For details see the section explaining Heritage Day in this magazine.

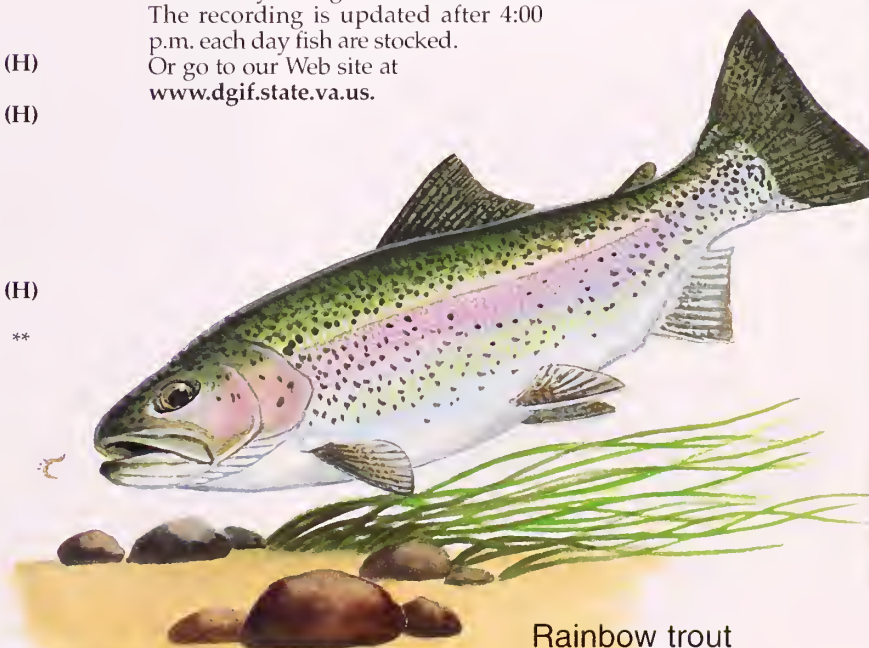
Stocking information for put-and-take stocking can be obtained by calling 1-434-525-FISH (525-3474).

The recording is updated after 4:00

p.m. each day fish are stocked.

Or go to our Web site at

www.dgif.state.va.us.



Rainbow trout

Trout Heritage Waters for 2004

The following waters will be stocked for Heritage Day on April 3.

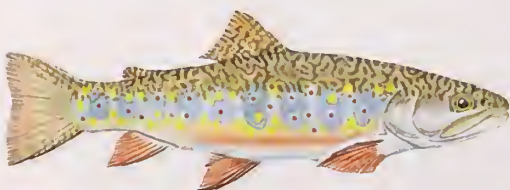
Beartree Lake	Washington County
Bark Camp Lake	Scott County
Clinch Mountain Fee Fishing Area*	Washington County
Cripple Creek (Ravens Cliff)	Wythe County
Crooked Creek Fee Fishing Area*	Carroll County
Douthat Lake Fee Fishing Area*	Bath County
Jennings Creek	Botetourt County
Lake Witten	Tazewell County
Liberty Lake	Bedford County
Lincolnshire Lake	Tazewell County
Middle Fork Holston River	Smyth County
Passage Creek	Shenandoah County
Pedlar River (upper)	Amherst County
Pigg River	Franklin County
Rose River	Madison County
Tinker Creek	Roanoke County

* The fee fishing areas are closed to angling from March 29–April 2. Heritage Waters are closed on April 2. On April 3 fishing can begin at 9:00 a.m.

Trout Species of Virginia

Trout belong to the salmon family (Salmonidae), which are native only to the northern hemisphere. Salmonidae includes trout, salmon, char, whitefish and grayling.

Brook Trout (*Salvelinus fontinalis*)



Brook trout by Michael Simon

Coloration: The brook trout is Virginia's most colorful trout species. Its back is dark olive green with light, wormy lines. Its sides have light spots on a dark background and red spots surrounded by a bluish halo. Often the entire side has a bluish tint. Its belly area is generally white with intense orange-red streaking during spawning season. Lower fins are distinctively marked with an outer white edge, black line, and reddish coloration.

Distribution: The brook trout is endemic to eastern North America, meaning that originally it occurred in no other region. Initial distribution included the Atlantic seaboard south to Cape Cod, the Appalachians south to Georgia, then extending west through the Great Lakes to Minnesota and north to Hudson Bay. Due to its popularity as a gamefish, however, it has been introduced into many other regions and is now found in much of the western United States, Europe, South America, New Zealand and Asia. No other species

of trout occurred in Virginia prior to man's stocking activities.

Biology: Brook trout spawn in October and November in Virginia. Spawning takes place in small streams, usually near the tail of a pool. Brook trout generally move upstream to spawn, often into the smaller headwater tributaries. In Virginia, an average female lays approximately 100 eggs in a clean gravel bed. Eggs hatch two to three months after they are spawned, and fry emerge from the gravel the following March.

Brook trout in Virginia reach sexual maturity at two years of age and an average length of 6.5 inches. The life span of this species is generally less than four years in this region, with most fish reaching about 9 to 12 inches by this time. Brook trout to 18 inches have been collected in Virginia, and some streams contain occasional trout of 12–16 inches. However, very few fish in a population can be expected to reach this size, even with restricted fishing.

The diet of brook trout consists of almost anything in the stream. Although their preferred foods consist of aquatic and terrestrial invertebrates, minnows, salamanders and frogs are also taken. In most cases, available food is a limiting factor in the unproductive mountain streams common to Virginia. Therefore, fish must be non-selective and opportunistic to compete. State Record: 5 lb. 10 oz., Big Stony Creek, Shenandoah County.

Rainbow Trout (*Oncorhynchus mykiss*)

Coloration: This fish has an olive-green back often with a silvery cast grading to a silvery white underside. The dominant characteristic is the pink band extending from the



Rainbow trout by Michael Simon

cheek to near the tail. Rainbows are generally well spotted with black spots intensifying on the upper fins and tail. The anal fin is often tipped with white in streambed fish.

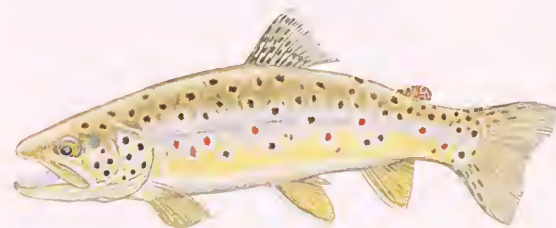
Distribution: Rainbow trout are native to the Pacific Coast from Alaska to northern Mexico eastward to the continental divide. The steelhead is the same species, differing only in its need to migrate to and from the ocean. Rainbows have been widely distributed and now occur throughout the continental United States, Canada, New Zealand, Australia, South America, Africa, Japan, Asia, Europe, and Hawaii. In Virginia, the species is well established in the southwestern region of the state and is the dominant trout in the Mt. Rogers Area. North of Roanoke, distribution is limited, with most rainbow populations occurring in spring creeks. Although rainbow trout have displaced the brook trout over much of its range in the southeastern United States, most of the remaining brook trout habitat in Virginia does not appear suitable for the rainbow.

In Virginia, most wild rainbow trout populations are strictly stream residents. Spawning occurs in gravel beds similar to those used by brook trout. The major difference is that rainbow trout are generally spring spawners, laying eggs in March. Hatchery managers have altered this natural spawning time, however, to create fall spawners for hatchery purposes. This fall spawning characteristic is apparently retained by some of Virginia's wild rainbow trout populations. Rainbow trout also have greater reproductive potential than brooks, with females laying 800 to 1000 eggs, depending on the size of the fish. This higher reproductive capacity is probably the reason over exploitation is less of a problem than it is with brook trout.

The diet of rainbows is quite similar to that of brook trout. Larger rainbows often show a greater preference for minnows than do brookies, but the main diet still consists of invertebrates. Rainbows are somewhat more selective than brook trout and, therefore, slightly more difficult to catch.

fish is usually brown, giving way to silvery sides and a yellowish underbelly. Pronounced black spots, often surrounded by a lighter halo, are spread along much of its body, extending well below the lateral line. In addition, irregularly shaped red or orange spots are also present along its sides. Some dark spots occur on the dorsal, adipose and tail fin, but such coloration is not as concentrated as on rainbows. The adipose fin is usually an orange/red color.

Distribution: Brown trout are native only to Europe and western Asia. They have been widely introduced elsewhere and are now found throughout the United States, southern Canada and the Rocky Moun-



Brown trout by Michael Simon



©Denver Bryan

Biology: Life history of various rainbow trout populations can differ significantly. Certain strains will migrate from a lake or ocean into streams to spawn, while others may remain in the same stream throughout their life. Also, the time of spawning can vary greatly between populations. Certain behavioral and physiological differences are genetic, providing fish managers with additional management tools.

Rainbows have the potential to attain a much greater size than brook trout, but in Virginia's mountain streams they exhibit similar growth and age structure. In spring creeks and large reservoirs, however, rainbow trout over 5 pounds are not uncommon. State Record: 14 lb. 7 oz., Greer Trout Pond, Grayson County.

Brown Trout (*Salmo trutta*)

Coloration: The dorsal area of this

tains, as well as in South America, Africa, Australia and New Zealand. In Virginia, the brown trout distribution is limited, with most wild populations occurring in the Carroll, Floyd and Patrick county areas. Small scattered populations also occur in the lower portion of many larger, wild brook trout streams throughout the state.

Biology: Brown and brook trout require similar spawning habitats, often utilizing the same sites in streams containing both species. Brown trout spawn later than brook trout, generally in November and December in Virginia. They have a higher reproductive potential than the other two species, mainly because of their larger size.

Brown trout reach sexual maturity at two to three years of age. The life expectancy of this species is longer than that of the other two trout. Although life spans of 10-15 years have been reported, brown trout in Virginia usually do not exceed four to five years of age. The longer life span naturally increases

the potential size of the brown despite annual growth rates similar to brook trout. Small mountain streams that rarely have brook trout over 12 inches will occasionally produce brown trout over 20 inches.

Brown trout are highly carnivorous, maintaining a diet of insects, crustaceans, mollusks, salamanders, frogs, rodents and fish. Fish and crayfish are the predominant diet of browns over 12 inches while smaller trout generally stick to invertebrates. Larger browns have a tendency to feed at dusk and after dark, making the larger fish difficult to catch. State Record: 14 lb. 12 oz., South Fork Holston River.

Wild Trout Program

Wild trout populations require cold, well-oxygenated water, a clean stream bottom and good fish cover. In Virginia, most trout habitat losses occur through increased stream temperature, siltation, and stream channel alteration.

Water temperature requirements may be the most critical factor facing Virginia's trout populations, and the state's generally warm climate and normally low summer stream flows do not help the situation. Most shaded mountain streams do not exceed 70°F during the summer, which is suitable for trout. Aquatic habitat and suitable water temperature can be maintained even during logging and farming operations when streamside vegetation is left intact. In most cases, maximum stream temperatures in the low 70s are within the tolerable range for trout, but such temperatures improve the habitat for other stream fishes which trout cannot compete against.

Siltation and other more direct forms of habitat alteration, such as channelization, have also cost Virginia many miles of trout water. Silted stream bottoms decrease the stream's insect population, an im-

portant source of trout food. Siltation also makes trout reproduction difficult. Trout lay eggs in stream gravel, and clean gravel is necessary to insure movement of oxygenated water over the eggs. As little as a quarter-inch of silt over trout eggs can result in 100 percent mortality.

Alteration of stream channels is also of critical concern, not only due to the increased siltation it causes, but also due to the removal of fish cover and the potential to raise water temperatures. Trout require overhead cover, such as undercut banks, large rocks or submerged logs. When such cover is removed, the trout leave. Lack of suitable cover limits the number of large trout a stream can support.

Virginia lost many good wild trout populations prior to the mid-1970s due to habitat degradation. However, many of the land-use practices that resulted in those losses—widespread stream channelization, poor logging techniques, removal of streamside vegetation, intensive agriculture in riparian areas,

etc.—have been improved to the point where, over the past two decades, the physical habitat has been improving. In addition, the Department maintains a current inventory of wild trout streams that provides the data necessary to protect this critical habitat.

The Department's trout stream inventory identifies over 2,300 miles of wild trout streams in Virginia. Biologists are encouraged to find that brook trout, the only trout species native to Virginia, still accounts for 80 percent of the wild trout resource in the state. Rainbow trout, a western introduction, have taken over many of the native brook trout streams in the other southeastern states. As a result, Virginia currently has more native brook trout streams than all other southeastern states combined.

Growth rates of wild trout, particularly brook trout, in Virginia are exceptional when compared with growth rates for similar streams in neighboring states. In most Virginia streams, adult brook trout average



8–10 inches by their third year of age. In respect to the number of streams available and the size of trout present, Virginia probably offers the best native brook trout fishing south of New England.

Unlike warmwater fish, such as bass and bluegill, trout have a very low ability to reproduce. Therefore, in heavily fished areas, it is imperative to protect trout until they are able to spawn at least once. In order to accomplish this objective, a 7-inch minimum size limit has been imposed on all trout creel in Virginia. Such a limit will allow most wild trout to reach spawning age before they are subject to harvest.

Special Regulation Wild Trout Streams

In the following streams regulations require the use of single hook, artificial lures, and all trout less than 9 inches in length be returned to the water unharmed. The exceptions are: the Rapidan River and its tribu-

taries; Stewart's Creek; North Fork Moorman River; Dan River; East Fork of Chestnut Creek; Roaring Fork; North Creek, and South Fork Holston River, which require the release of all fish caught, and Whitetop Laurel/Green Cove Creeks, which have a 12-inch minimum size limit.

Buffalo River (Amherst County)

Special regulations apply to that portion of North Fork of Buffalo River and its tributaries within the George Washington National Forest. Access is available by forest trail off Forest Road 51 or from the end of State Route 635. Buffalo River is a moderate to high gradient stream dominated by large boulders and deep pools. The stream contains a good, native brook trout population with numerous fish 8–10 inches in length.

Big and Little Wilson Creeks (Grayson County)

The special regulation sections of

Big Wilson and Little Wilson Creeks and their tributaries, Quebec Branch, Wilburn Branch and Mill Creek, include all portions of each stream within the boundaries of Grayson Highlands State Park and the Mount Rogers National Recreation Area. Big and Little Wilson Creeks provide an opportunity to fish for both wild rainbow and brook trout. Brook trout are primarily restricted to the headwaters of both streams and their tributaries. Rainbow trout can be found throughout the area. Big Wilson Creek offers some spectacular scenery. Large boulders predominate the stream channel, interspersed with deep pools associated with a steep gradient. Access can be gained through Grayson Highlands State Park or Route 806 and 817 off U.S. Route 58. Be prepared to do some hiking to fish this area.

Conway River/Devils Ditch (Greene County)

Special regulations apply to that portion of Conway River and its major tributary, Devils Ditch, within the Rapidan Wildlife Management Area and the Shenandoah National Park. The stream contains brook trout in the upper reaches with wild brown trout scattered through the lower portions. Adult brook trout range from 7–11 inches in length; brown trout occasionally exceed 20 inches. The stream lies north of Standardsville and can be reached by Route 615 from Graves Mill.

Dan River (Patrick County)

The section of the Dan River in Patrick County from the Pinnacles Powerhouse upstream to Townes Dam is designated as a catch-and-release trout fishery. Wild brown trout are the dominant species in this stretch, although the occasional brook or rainbow trout may be caught. This is a moderate sized river with a steep gradient and many large, deep pools. The numbers of brown trout present are relatively low (a rough guide would be 2–4 fish/pool), but the size of the



fish is above average (fish up to 16 inches are not uncommon).

This portion of the river can be reached by taking Route 8 south from Stuart to Route 103 west, turn right on Route 648 at Claudeville and proceed to the powerhouse at the end of the road. The upper end of this section can be reached by taking Route 614 south from Meadows of Dan, turning left on Route 602, and proceeding to Townes Dam. A permit from the City of Danville is required to access the special regulation section, and it can be obtained at no charge from the Pinnacles Powerhouse or from the City Utilities Department. Contact: City of Danville, Director of Electric Division, Department of Utilities, P.O. Box 3300, Danville, VA 24543. Phone 434/799-5270.

East Fork of Chestnut Creek (Grayson and Carroll Counties)

The East Fork of Chestnut Creek, locally known as Farmer's Creek, is designated a catch-and-release trout fishery. The special regulation section includes all portions of the creek upstream of the Blue Ridge Parkway. The lower mile of the special regulation area is a low gradient, native brook trout stream with numerous deep pools and undercut banks. The stream decreases in size and increases in gradient upstream, and it is characterized by numerous small plunge pools and a dense rhododendron canopy. Adult brook trout average 8–13 inches in length with occasional larger fish in the lower reaches. The stream lies south of Galax, crossing the Blue Ridge Parkway a short distance east of Route 89.

Little Stony Creek (Giles County)

Special regulations apply to that portion of Little Stony Creek in the Jefferson National Forest. Most of the special section is below the Cascades waterfall. The upper reaches of Little Stony Creek contain native brook trout, but rainbow trout com-

prise most of the trout population below the Cascades. Adult rainbows average 7–12 inches in length. The area is heavily used by hikers and picnickers. The stream is located near Pembroke and can be reached by Route 623.

Little Stony Creek (Shenandoah County)

Little Stony Creek is a small mountain brook trout stream. The special regulations apply to that portion of stream located within the George Washington National Forest, including Woodstock Reservoir. Adult brook trout presently average 7–10 inches in length. The stream is located west of Woodstock and the Forest Service Road 92 crosses the lower portion of the special regulation section. Much of the upper reaches can only be reached by foot trail.

North Creek (Botetourt County)

The upper section of the stream (upstream of the North Creek campground) was designated a catch-and-release trout stream in 1999. Rainbow trout predominate, although brook trout are present as well. Adult trout will range from 7–12 inches. The stream is located east of Buchanan, a short distance from I-81. The Jefferson National Forest maintains a campground adjacent to the stream and vehicular access is available along most of its length.

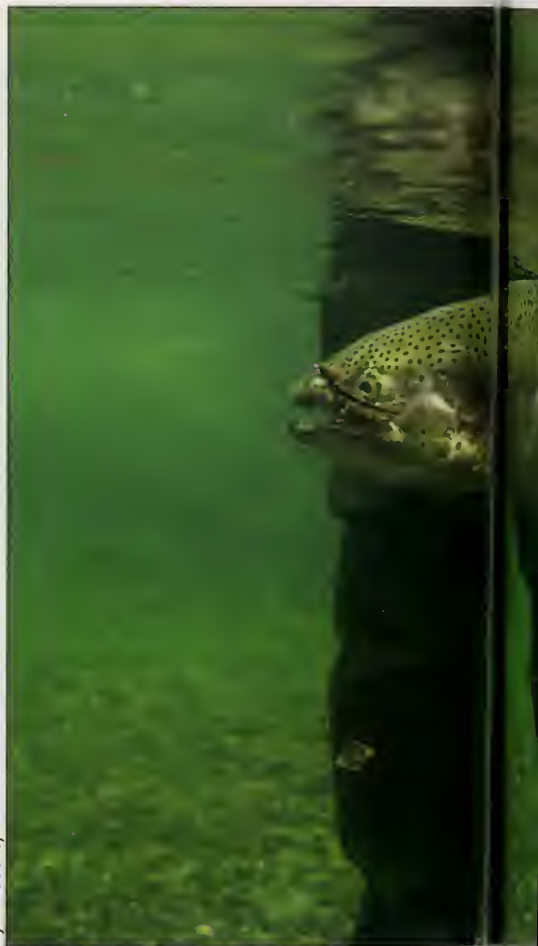
North Fork Moormans River (Albemarle County)

That portion of the Moormans River lying within the Shenandoah National Park is designated as catch-and-release. The stream has historically contained an excellent population of brook trout with numerous adults of 8–12 inches. In addition, a small population of wild brown trout can be found in the lower half of the stream. However, this drainage was struck with devastating floods during June, 1995. The stream suffered significant habitat

damage and resident trout populations have been severely reduced. Brook trout populations have been slow to recover in the lower reaches. Access to the Moormans River is available over State Route 614 past Sugar Hollow Reservoir, but much of the streamside trail no longer exists.

Ramsey's Draft (Augusta County)

Ramsey's Draft and its tributaries within the George Washington National Forest provide over 10 miles of native brook trout water. Most of this section of the stream is located within the Ramsey's Draft Wilderness Area, providing the angler with the opportunity to fish for quality native trout in a remote setting. Summer flows are usually quite low in this stream, so plan to fish Ramsey's Draft during the springtime. To reach Ramsey's Draft, drive 15 miles west of Churchville on Route 250 and look for the Mountain Home



©Judd Cooney

Picnic Area on the right. A foot trail parallels the stream from the picnic area.

Rapidan River (Madison County)

The Rapidan River is Virginia's best known trout stream. Not only was it the state's first special regulation stream, it was also the site of the Presidential Retreat established by President Hoover. Much of the original Camp Hoover is still intact and is occasionally used. The special regulation area of the Rapidan includes all the stream and its tributaries within the Shenandoah National Park and the Rapidan Wildlife Management Area. The stream contains an excellent native brook trout population with good numbers of 10–11 inch adults.

This stream drainage was hit by devastating floods in June, 1995 and September, 1996. Stream habitat was severely impacted along the lower reaches and in one tributary, the

Staunton River. Impacted brook trout populations have rebounded very well in the Rapidan and, despite the significant loss of habitat in the Staunton River, populations in that stream are showing remarkable recovery. Access to the Rapidan is available over Route 662 from Graves Mill and over Route 649 from Criglersville.

Roaring Fork (Tazewell County)

This special regulation area is located within the boundaries of the Beartown Wilderness Area of the Jefferson National Forest. Acidification of this stream, resulting in a steadily declining brook trout population, prompted the inclusion of this stream section into Virginia's catch-and-release trout regulations. Access to the special regulated section is difficult and some hiking will be required. Access can be gained from Forest Service Road 222 off Route 16, south of Tazewell.

St. Mary's River (Augusta County)

The special regulation section includes all portions of the St. Mary's River above the gate at the National Forest boundary. It is a fairly high gradient stream with a number of waterfalls. Although water levels can get quite low along lower reaches, flows are much improved upstream and large, deep pools provide ample trout cover. Adult brook trout average 8–12 inches in length. Historically, the St. Mary's was well-known for its wild rainbow trout fishery, but stream acidification completely eliminated the wild rainbow trout fishery and seriously impacted native brook trout reproduction. In the spring of 1999, the U.S. Forest Service, in cooperation with the Department and other private organizations, limed the St. Mary's River to improve water quality. This effort has proven to be very successful. The brook trout population in St. Mary's River is now higher than it was in the 1970s. The stream lies east of Raphine off Route 608, a short distance from I-81. Most of the area is accessible by foot trail only and backpacking is popular.

South Fork Holston River (Smyth County)

This section of the South Fork Holston River lies within the boundaries of VDGIF's Buller Fish Hatchery. From the concrete dam downstream to the lower boundary of the hatchery property, only artificial lures with single hooks may be used and all trout caught must be released. This special regulation section of stream provides an excellent opportunity to catch trout of trophy size. Access can be gained through the Buller Fish Hatchery property off Route 650, south of Marion.

Stewart's Creek (Carroll County)

Stewart's Creek is another of the catch-and-release trout fisheries. It is a high-gradient, native brook trout stream with numerous plunge



pools, rock ledges and a dense rhododendron canopy for cover. Approximately 4.5 miles of Stewart's Creek and its two major tributaries, North Fork and South Fork Stewart's Creek, were opened to the public in 1989 for year-round fishing as part of the Stewarts Creek Wildlife Management Area.

Stewart's Creek Wildlife Management Area is southeast of Galax on the east side of the Blue Ridge Parkway. Take Exit 1 off I-77. Follow the trailblazer signs to the area.

Whitetop Laurel/Green Cove Creeks (Washington County)

The special regulation area includes two sections. Prior to 1999, the lower mile of Green Cove Creek plus Whitetop Laurel Creek (to the first bridge above the village of Taylors Valley) made up the special regulation area. In 1999, an additional section (that extends from the Forest Service boundary below Taylors Valley, 2 miles downstream to the mouth of Straight Creek) was added. There remains a section of catchable, trout stocked water without special regulations through the village of Taylors Valley. Whitetop Laurel is one of Virginia's largest and most beautiful wild trout streams. Wild rainbow trout dominate, with most adults in the 7-14 inch class. A few wild brown trout provide occasional trophy fish. The special regulation area is located east of Damascus (near the Tennessee line) and lies within the Mount Rogers Recreation Area. Minimum size limit in this section is 12 inches.

Shenandoah National Park (SNP)

The Park provides an entire region of special regulation trout streams, extending from Front Royal to Waynesboro. Park regulations were modified in 1996 and most streams are now open to fishing. However, only a portion of those streams open to angling allow for the harvesting of trout. Check with SNP for their annual list of streams

where harvesting is permitted. All fishing in the Park is restricted to the use of single hook artificial lures. In streams allowing harvest the creel limit is 6 trout per day, all of which must be 9 inches or more in length. Most streams within the Park contain good populations of native brook trout, while a few of the larger east slope streams also contain isolated populations of brown trout.

Fingerling Stocking Program

The fingerling stocking program is the smallest of the state's three management programs. It is designed to take advantage of the natural potential of high-elevation lakes, deep reservoirs, cold-water tailwaters, and spring-fed streams to produce quality trout fishing opportunities where wild fisheries are not possible due to the lack of natural reproduction.

Because summer water temperatures are usually a limiting factor to trout survival in Virginia, under this program a stream or lake must provide suitable, year-round water temperatures for trout survival, have good habitat and be productive enough to provide adequate food for good growth.

Suitable trout waters are stocked once annually with fingerling or subcatchable (smaller than the legal size limit) trout, and often length limits and angling gear restrictions are imposed to protect these small fish until they reach harvestable size. In areas receiving heavy fishing pressure, special gear restrictions are often necessary to avoid high hooking mortality rates that can occur when bait fishing is permitted. These fish will often be caught several times before they eventually reach harvestable size, and the program can only be successful if hooking mortality remains low.

Depending on the length limit, these stocked fish will not reach a legal size for six months to two years. During this time, trout lose most of their hatchery characteristics, both in appearance and behavior, and create a fishery that approaches a wild one in terms of fishing experience.

Some of Virginia's most exciting trout fishing opportunities can be found within our fingerling stocking program, and by stocking small fish once a year, a high quality fishery can be developed at a fraction of the cost of the more common put and take program. Many anglers have discovered this quality angling and participation in the program is growing. VDGIF recognizes this growing interest and is continuing to develop new waters in the state.

Trout Lakes

The warm summer climate of Virginia limits the potential for development of good trout populations in lakes. Numerous small ponds and lakes are stocked under the catchable stocking program (see Trout Stocking Plan), however, very few provide good, year-round trout habitat for management of wild or put-and-grow trout fisheries. In order to provide adequate coldwater habitat in Virginia, a lake must either be located at high elevations where cool summer temperatures prevail, or be deep enough to maintain a cold layer of water. Virginia has five small lakes at sufficient elevation for trout and one reservoir deep enough to provide a two-story fishery. Two-story reservoirs stratify during summer months, providing an upper, warmwater layer where fish, such as bass, bluegill, crappie and catfish exist and a deep, coldwater layer suitable for trout.

Laurel Bed Lake (Russell County)

Laurel Bed Lake is a 330-acre, mountaintop impoundment located approximately 10 miles northwest of Saltville. The lake is located in the

Clinch Mountain Wildlife Management Area and, in addition to providing a unique fishery, is used to augment the flow to Big Tumbling Creek during summer months. Until 1999 Laurel Bed Lake was part of the fee fishing area, but the lake no longer requires a daily permit or a trout license. The fishery is based on stocking sub-catchable brook trout in the fall. Fishing is usually excellent through June, with limits of trout being common. The favored fishing methods include night-crawlers, mealworms, flies, and spinners. Fishing usually becomes sporadic as the lake temperature increases, with fish hitting well for a few days, then slacking off for several days. Favorite summer fishing spots are located around coves where spring branches enter. Late summer and early fall fishing is dependent on the number of fish that survive through the summer, and this changes significantly from year to year. Limited camping is permitted on the management area and a concession is in operation.

Lexington City Reservoir (Rockbridge County)

The Lexington City Reservoir is a 22-acre, high elevation lake located in Rockbridge County. It is a put-and-grow lake that is stocked annually with brook trout. The brookies have done well in the reservoir and many measure 9–13 inches in length.

It is a long hike across USFS lands to the reservoir and primitive camping is permitted. General fishing regulations are in effect, and no trout stamp is required. However, a \$1.00 daily use permit is required from Lexington City Hall, (540) 462-3702.

Mills Creek and Coles Run Reservoirs (Augusta County)

Mills Creek (17 acres) and Coles Run (13 acres) are located in the Pedlar Ranger District of the George Washington National Forest. They are both old Augusta County water supply reservoirs that were first opened to fishing in 1990.

The lakes are managed as put-and-grow lakes and are stocked annually with small brook trout. Samples collected show good populations of 10–12 inch brook trout.

There are no facilities and access by foot is about a half mile to Coles Run and 1.5 miles to Mills Creek. For more information, call the Glenwood/Pedlar Ranger District at (540) 291-2188. Access is west of Route 664 at Sherando off Forest Service Road 42.

Skidmore Lake (Switzer Dam)

Skidmore Lake is a 104-acre impoundment located off Route 33 west of Harrisonburg. The dam was built by the Soil Conservation Service for flood control and water supply, and it is now managed by the City of Harrisonburg. An access road is available off Route 33. Boats, without motors, are permitted but must be carried to the water as no ramp is provided. Fingerling brook trout have been stocked since 1976, and fishing has been permitted since 1979. Angler success has been good, with most fish in the 8–14 inch range and an occasional large brook trout of 2–3 pounds. New regulations posted in 2002 require release of all trout less than 10 inches. In addition, the lake has developed a fairly good population of largemouth bass, bluegill, and crappie. In recent years, the city has drawn more water from the lake, and it is not unusual to find the lake well below full pool in late summer and fall, which can make boat access very difficult. No camping is permitted at the lake, but primitive camping is available in the National Forest nearby.

The Department's Catchable Trout Stocking Program offers anglers the chance to catch nearly 1,250,000 trout every year, that have been hatched, reared and released into trout streams and the numerous ponds, lakes and reservoirs in Virginia.

Lake Moomaw (Alleghany/Bath Counties)

This flood control reservoir was completed in 1981 with the closing of the Gathright Dam on the Jackson River. It resulted in the formation of a 13-mile long, 2,530-acre reservoir with more than 43 miles of shoreline.

Much of the shoreline is adjacent to the 13,428-acre Gathright Wildlife Management Area, which is owned and managed by the Department. The average depth of the lake is 80 feet and flow augmentation results in a normal 5 to 15-foot draw down by late summer.

Trout management at the reservoir consists of stocking subcatchable brown trout and the McConaughy strain of rainbow trout. Regulations were changed in 1995 to reflect the potential of this lake to produce trophy-sized trout. The creel limit was reduced to two trout per day with a minimum size limit of 16 inches.



©Kin Montgomery

Brown trout fishing has been good in recent years with large numbers of 3–5 pound trout reported caught. McConaughy strain rainbow trout are doing very well, also. Most trout are caught by trolling with shad imitation crankbaits; some are caught still-fishing with live shad 25 feet down and others by jump fishing. Some are caught incidental to bass fishing.

The area around Moomaw provides nearly year-round opportunities for boating water sports, fishing, camping, picnicking, hiking, birding, sight-seeing, photography and hunting.

Boats are restricted to a maximum length of 25 feet. No house boats are

are primitive camping areas at Greenwood and McClintock Point. The Morris Hill Campground and picnic area, the four-lane Fortney Branch ramp and courtesy dock, and the Coles Mountain Area are located on the south end of the lake in Alleghany County. A daily fee is charged for swimming, picnicking, camping and use of boat ramps.

For facilities information, contact the James River Ranger District in Covington (540) 962-2214; the Warm Springs Ranger District in Hot Springs (540) 839-2521 or 839-2442; or the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers in Covington (540) 962-1138.

Special Regulations

Jackson River Tailwater (Alleghany County)

The Jackson River below Gathright Dam provides almost 19 miles of high quality trout fishing on a large river. The river is legally navigable and is easily floated by canoe. Six access points are available for public use, located at about 3 mile intervals. Several landowners along the upper portion of this section of river have legally established exclusive private rights to the fishery on their properties. Many other landowners have used that legal decision to also post their sections of river. Because of the proliferation of posting and legal challenges by riparian landowners, the Department discontinued its stocking program in 1996.

Regulations on this section of river allow the use of bait and creeling of 4 trout per day over 12 inches in length. Trout populations, which had shown a significant decline after stocking was terminated, have now rebounded. A good wild rainbow trout fishery has developed in the upper half of this river's reach and wild brown trout are now showing up in increasing numbers. Trout density and average size are now approaching levels seen when trout were stocked annually. The fishery should continue to improve.

In the following streams, special regulations require the use of single hook, artificial lures and restrict creel to fish over 12 inches in length. Trout from 6–8 inches are stocked periodically and allowed to grow for a year or two before being creeled. This approach can be used in streams that maintain good flow, cool summer waters and are productive enough for good growth of trout.

Smith Creek (Alleghany County)

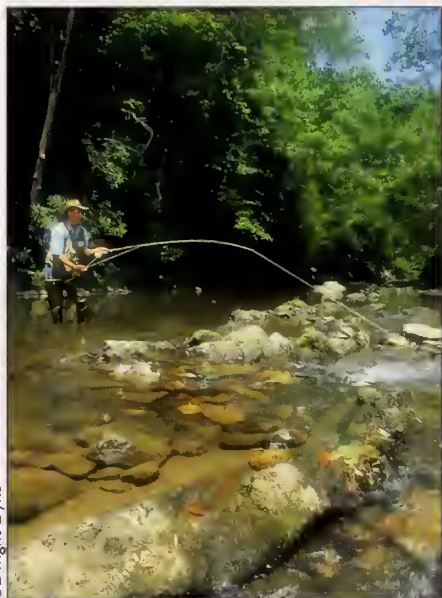
The special regulation section extends from the Forest Service boundary (above the old C & O Dam) upstream 2.5 miles to the Clifton Forge Dam. Within this section, fingerling brown trout are stocked once annually. The stream contains good numbers of 8–12 inch brown trout with occasional fish to 20 inches. The stream maintains good flow throughout the year and provides wide, flat pools and good fly-fishing opportunities. The best way to access this stream is by Route 606 from Clifton Forge to the access road for the Clifton Forge Water Plant. Fishermen must park at the entrance and walk a half mile to the stream.

Snake Creek (Carroll County)

Special regulations apply to all of Big Snake Creek below Hall Ford and all of Little Snake Creek below the junction of Routes 922 and 674. The stream is located just north of Fancy Gap. Snake Creek is a moderate gradient, softwater, gravel bottomed stream with an average width of about 18 feet. The holdover of stocked brown trout is good, with some fish reaching 4 pounds. Recent sampling efforts indicate that some natural reproduction of brown trout is also occurring.

Trophy Trout Streams

In the following streams regulations restrict fishing to the use of single hook, artificial lures and the creel is two fish per day over 16 inches (ex-



©Dwight Dyke

allowed and excessive noise is prohibited. Trailer-launched boats must be launched at ramps at Fortney Branch, Bolar Flat or Coles Point. Canoes and cartops can be launched at Coles Mountain Fishing Access, McClintock Bridge, McClintock Point and Midway.

The lake is open 24 hours a day, year-round. There is a 12-inch size limit on bass. Neither a trout license nor a National Forest stamp is required.

The Bolar Mountain Recreation Area provides camping, swimming, beaches, restrooms and picnic grounds. Bolar Flat has a picnic area, a four-lane boat dock, a courtesy dock, a marina and restrooms. There

cept for Mossy Creek where the creel is one fish per day over 20 inches). Mossy Creek is restricted to fly-fishing only. The management approach is to stock fingerling trout (5-6 inches) in high quality streams where they will grow exceptionally fast.

Buffalo Creek (Rockbridge County)

The special regulation area includes that section of stream from the confluence of Colliers Creek upstream 2.9 miles to the confluence of North and South Forks of Buffalo Creek. The stream flows through private land and requires a written landowner permit to fish, which is

contains approximately 6 miles of stream and extends from Talbott Dam downstream to the confluence with Townes Reservoir. The fishery is maintained by natural reproduction and consists primarily of rainbow trout in the 8-12 inch size range and brown trout in the 8-18 inch size range. The upper reaches of the special regulation section can be reached by taking Route 614 south from Meadows of Dan. Turn right on Route 601 and proceed to Talbott Dam. The lower reach of the section can only be accessed by boat at the upper end of Townes Reservoir. A permit from the City of Danville is required and can be obtained at no charge from the City Utilities De-

3 miles to the last ford on FS 481D. This section can only be reached by foot travel, either from the Hidden Valley area or off Route 623 and FS Road 481. The area provides a remote fishing opportunity on a relatively large, productive stream. A trout license is required to fish in this stream from October 1 through June 15.

Mossy Creek (Augusta County)

The special section includes about 4 miles of stream extending upstream from the Augusta/Rockingham County line. The stream is located just off Route 42 south of Bridgewater. Fishing in Mossy Creek is restricted to fly-fishing only and a written landowner permit must be obtained (available from the VDGIF office in Verona. You must include a self-addressed, stamped envelope). Mossy Creek is a classic, meadow, limestone stream averaging about 15 feet in width and flowing through open pastures. Brown trout in the 3-7 pound class are available to fishermen.

Pound River (Dickenson County)

This special regulation area begins at a sign posted 0.4 miles downstream of John W. Flannagan Dam and extends downstream 1.2 miles almost to the confluence with the Russell Fork River. Located within the rugged Cumberland Mountains, the scenic, tailwater fishery is dependent on coolwater discharges from Flannagan Reservoir. The Pound River immediately below the dam remains in the catchable trout program. Brown trout fingerlings are stocked in the special regulation area periodically to enhance the existing wild brown fishery. Anglers should be able to find occasional rainbow trout, as well as brown trout, up to and exceeding the 16 inch minimum size limit. This section of the Pound River can be accessed from Flannagan Dam, which is owned and operated by the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers.

available from the VDGIF office in Verona (please include a self-addressed, stamped envelope). Brown and rainbow trout are stocked annually as subcatchables, and good numbers of 10-16 inch fish are available. Trophy fish of 5-8 pounds have been caught in the stream. Buffalo Creek can be reached by taking Route 251 from Lexington.

Dan River (Patrick County)

The special regulation section is located within the Pinnacles Hydroelectric Project in what is known as the "Grand Canyon" of Virginia. The terrain is quite rugged and the scenery is spectacular. The section

partment or on site at the Pinnacles Powerhouse. Contact: City of Danville, Director of Electric Division, Department of Utilities, P.O. Box 3300, Danville, VA 24543. Phone: (434) 799-5270.

Jackson River (Bath County)

The regulations for this section of the Jackson River were changed in 1997. This section is stocked several times a year with catchable-sized trout and good populations are always present. The special regulation section extends from the USFS swinging bridge (located just above the mouth of Muddy Run) upstream



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Roaring Run (Botetourt County)

The Roaring Run trophy trout section was established in 1999. The 1 mile section is located in the Jefferson National Forest between the third foot bridge upstream of the Roaring Run Furnace Day Use Area and the Botetourt County line. The lower section of Roaring Run (within the National Forest) remains put-and-take water. The trophy section runs through a very steep gorge that has an abundance of deep pools, which are supplied with coldwater from a large limestone spring. The trophy section continues to be developed using annual brown and rainbow fingerling stockings. Trout growth and survival to date has been good for both species of trout. Three-year classes of trout have been established in the stream and fish up to 16 inches are available for anglers. The stream can be accessed by taking Route 615 off US Route 220 west of Eagle Rock to Route 621 at Strom.

Smith River (Henry County)

The special regulation area on the Smith River extends from the mouth of Town Creek (approximately 2.5 miles below Philpott Dam) downstream to the Route 666 bridge at the upper end of the Town of Bassett. This 3-mile section of the river has a large population of wild brown trout. Fish up to 14 inches are common, but larger fish are relatively rare. The habitat in this area consists of large deep pools connected by moderately deep runs and shallow riffles. There is no direct vehicle access to this portion of the river, so you'll have to park at either end and walk into the section. Also, when power is generated at Philpott Dam, the river is too high for wading. You should call the Army Corps of Engineers (the operators of Philpott Dam) at (276) 629-2432 to get the recorded generation schedule before you go fishing.

South Fork Holston River (Smyth County)

The special regulation section is

located south of Marion and west of the community of Sugar Grove off Route 16. The area was expanded in 1999 and now includes approximately 4 miles of stream extending from 500 feet above the dam at Buller Hatchery, upstream to the upper Jefferson National Forest boundary (above the crossing of the Appalachian Trail). The South Fork offers the opportunity to fish for both trophy rainbow and brown trout. An abundance of 10–14 inch trout are available.

License Requirements

All residents 16 years of age and older are required to possess a state fishing freshwater license to fish for trout. Persons who fish in designated stocked waters (those waters listed in the Trout Stocking Plan) must have an additional trout license. A National Forest Stamp is necessary when fishing in most waters within the George Washington or Jefferson National Forests. Refer to your fishing regulation pamphlet for specific exemptions and costs of licenses.

When fishing in non-designated trout waters, such as wild trout streams or those special regulation areas not listed in the Trout Stocking Plan, the angler does not need a trout license. However, some of the special regulation areas require a signed landowner permit card which can be obtained from certain VDGIF offices and streamside landowners (refer to individual stream descriptions in this guide for details).

Out-of-state anglers who fish designated stocked waters need to purchase both a non-resident state freshwater fishing license (five-day, non-resident licenses are available), a non-resident trout license, and a National Forest Stamp (where appropriate.) For fishing in wild trout or most special regulation waters, the non-resident needs only a non-resident state freshwater fishing license,

the appropriate National Forest Stamp and landowner permit cards.

Note: The trout license is only required from October 1 through June 15. From June 16 through September 30 anglers can fish in stocked trout waters without a trout license.

Fee-fishing areas require a state or non-resident freshwater fishing license and a daily fishing permit that can be obtained on site.

Senior citizens holding previously issued (but no longer available) \$5 senior lifetime fishing licenses do not need to purchase any additional fishing or trout licenses. Virginia residents 65 years or older do not need to purchase a National Forest Stamp.

Please consult the regulation pamphlet available where you purchased your license for specific restrictions on size, creel, gear restrictions and season lengths. □

More Questions About Trout Fishing?

Call or write to your closest VDGIF office:

Richmond
4010 West Broad St.
P.O. Box 11104
Richmond, VA 23230-1104
(804) 367-9369

Verona
P.O. Box 996
Verona, VA 24482
(540) 248-9360

Blacksburg
2206 South Main Street
Suite C
Blacksburg, VA 24060
(540) 951-7923

Forest
1132 Thomas Jefferson Rd.
Forest, VA 24551-9223
(434) 525-7522

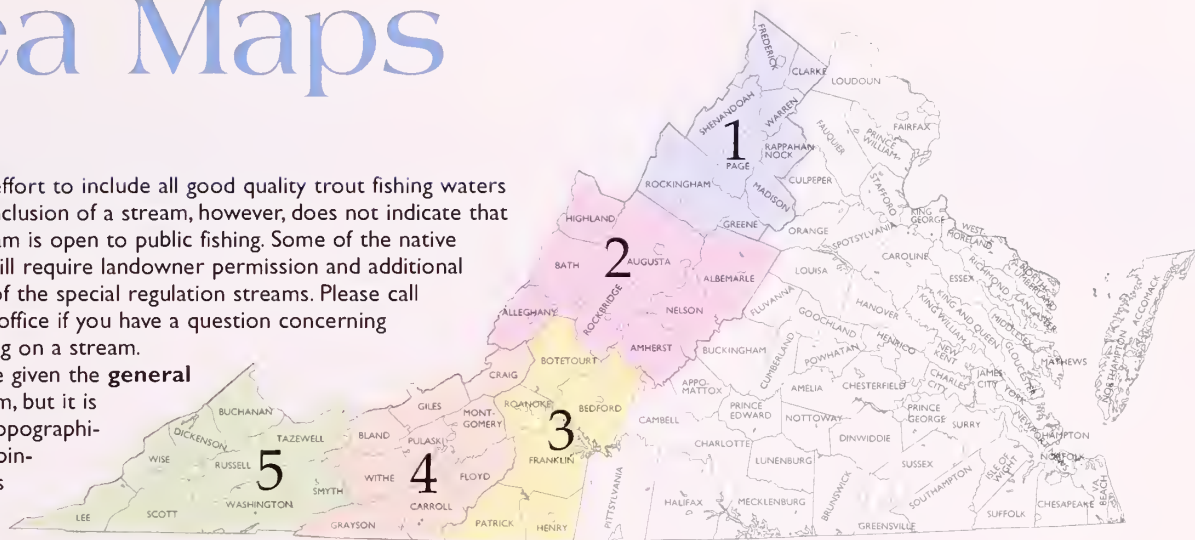
Marion
1796 Highway Sixteen
Marion, VA 24354
(276) 783-4860

Area Maps

Caution:

We have made an effort to include all good quality trout fishing waters on these area maps. Inclusion of a stream, however, does not indicate that all or part of the stream is open to public fishing. Some of the native trout streams listed will require landowner permission and additional permits as will a few of the special regulation streams. Please call your district fisheries office if you have a question concerning private vs. public fishing on a stream.

In addition, we have given the **general** location of each stream, but it is essential to obtain a topographical or county map to pinpoint specific locations before you start your fishing trip.



Area #1

Legend

- wild trout streams
- stocked trout waters
- special regulation waters



Frederick County

- (1) Hogue Creek
- (2) Clearbrook Lake
- (3) Winchester Lake
- (4) Paddy Run

Shenandoah County

- (5) Passage Creek
- (6) Little Passage Creek
- (7) Peters Mill Creek
- (8) Stony Creek
- (9) Little Stony Creek
- (10) Mill Creek
- (11) Tomahawk Pond

Rockingham County

- (12) N. Fk. Shenandoah River
- (13) German River
- (14) Slate Lick Lake/Slate Lick Run
- (15) Dry River
- (16) Switzer Lake
- (17) Blacks Run
- (18) Hone Quarry Lake
- (19) Hone Quarry Run
- (20) Briery Branch Lake
- (21) Silver Lake
- (23) Madison Run (SNP)
- (24) Big Run (SNP)
- (26) South River (Grottoes)

Page County

- (27) Naked Creek (SNP)
- (28) Cub Run
- (29) Upper Passage Creek
- (30) Hawksbill Creek
- (31) Jeremys Run (SNP)

Rappahannock County

- (32) Piney River (SNP)
- (33) N. Fk. Thornton River (SNP)
- (34) Hazel River (SNP)

Madison County

- (35) Hughes Rivers (SNP)
- (36) Robinson River (SNP)
- (37) Rose River (SNP)
- (38) Rapidan River (SNP)

Greene County

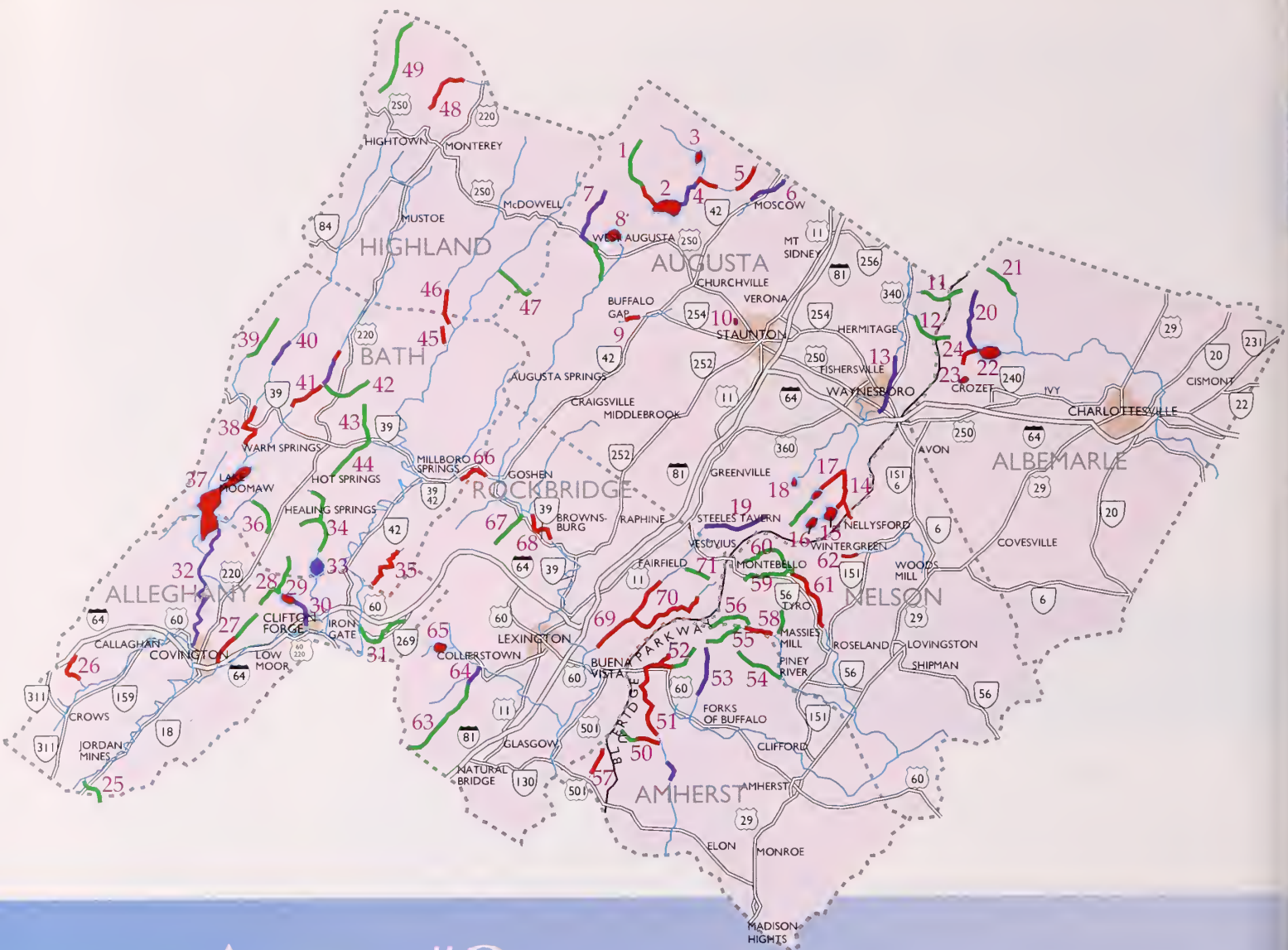
- (39) Conway River
- (40) South River

Warren County

- (41) Happy Creek

Fauquier County

- (42) Thompson WMA Pond



Area #2

Augusta County

- (1) North River (Upper)
- (2) Elkhorn Lake
- (3) Hearthstone Lake
- (4) North River (tailwater and gorge)
- (5) North River (Natural Chimney)
- (6) Mossy Creek
- (7) Ramseys Draft
- (8) Braley Pond
- (9) Falls Hollow
- (10) Staunton City Lake Tams
- (11) Meadow Run (SNP)
- (12) Paine Run (SNP)
- (13) South River
- (14) Back Creek
- (15) Lower Sherando Lake
- (16) Upper Sherando Lake
- (17) Mills Creek Reservoir/Mills Creek
- (18) Coles Run Reservoir
- (19) St. Marys River

Albemarle County

- (20) N. Fk. Moormans River (SNP)
- (21) Doyles River (SNP)
- (22) Sugar Hollow Reservoir
- (23) Mint Spring Lakes
- (24) S. Fk. Moormans River

Alleghany County

- (25) Shawvers Run

- (26) Jerrys Run
- (27) Pounding Mill Creek
- (28) Smith Creek
- (29) Clifton Forge Reservoir
- (30) Smith Creek
- (31) Simpson Creek
- (32) Jackson River tailwater

Bath County

- (33) Douthat Lake
- (34) Wilson Creek
- (35) Pads Creek
- (36) Cascades Creek
- (37) Lake Moomaw
- (38) Back Creek
- (39) Little Back Creek
- (40) Back Creek
- (41) Jackson River
- (42) Muddy Run
- (43) Jordan Run
- (44) Mares Run
- (45) Spring Run
- (46) Bullpasture River

Highland County

- (46) Bullpasture River
- (47) Benson Run
- (48) S. Br. Potomac River
- (49) Laurel Fork

Amherst County

- (50) Little Irish Creek
- (51) Pedlar River
- (52) Davis Mill Creek
- (53) N. Fk. Buffalo River
- (54) Little Piney River
- (55) S. Fk. Piney River
- (56) N. Fk. Piney River
- (57) Rocky Row Run

Nelson County

- (58) Shoe Creek
- (59) S. Fk. Tye River
- (60) N. Fk. Tye River
- (61) Tye River
- (62) South Rockfish River

Rockbridge County

- (63) S. Fk. Buffalo Creek
- (64) Buffalo Creek
- (65) Lexington Reservoir
- (66) Mill Creek
- (67) Guys Run
- (68) Maury River
- (69) South River
- (70) Irish Creek
- (71) Big Marys Creek

Area #3



Area #4



Craig County

- (1) Potts Creek
- (2) N. Fk. Barbours Creek/ Barbours Creek
- (3) Meadow Creek

Giles County

- (5) Big Stony Creek
- (6) Little Stony Creek
- (7) Johns Creek
- (8) Mill Creek
- (9) Dismal Creek

Montgomery County

- (10) Craig Creek
- (11) Poverty Creek
- (11A) Pandapas Pond
- (12) Toms Creek

Floyd County

- (14) Goose Creek
- (15) Little River

(16) W. Fk. Little River

- (17) Howell Creek
- (18) Rush Fork
- (19) Mira Fork
- (20) Little Indian Creek
- (21) Burkes Fork
- (22) Laurel Fork

Carroll County

- (22) Laurel Fork
- (23) Big Reed Island Creek
- (24) Snake Creek
- (25) Elk Spur Branch
- (26) Lovills Creek
- (27) Stewarts Creek
- (28) Crooked Creek
- (29) Little Reed Island Creek
- (30) Chestnut Creek

Pulaski County

- (31) Peak Creek

Bland County

- (32) Laurel Fork Creek
- (33) Wolf Creek
- (34) Lick Creek

Wythe County

- (35) W. Fk. Reed Creek
- (36) Guillon Fork Ponds
- (37) Stony Creek
- (38) Dry Run
- (39) Cripple Creek
- (40) Rural Retreat Lake Pond

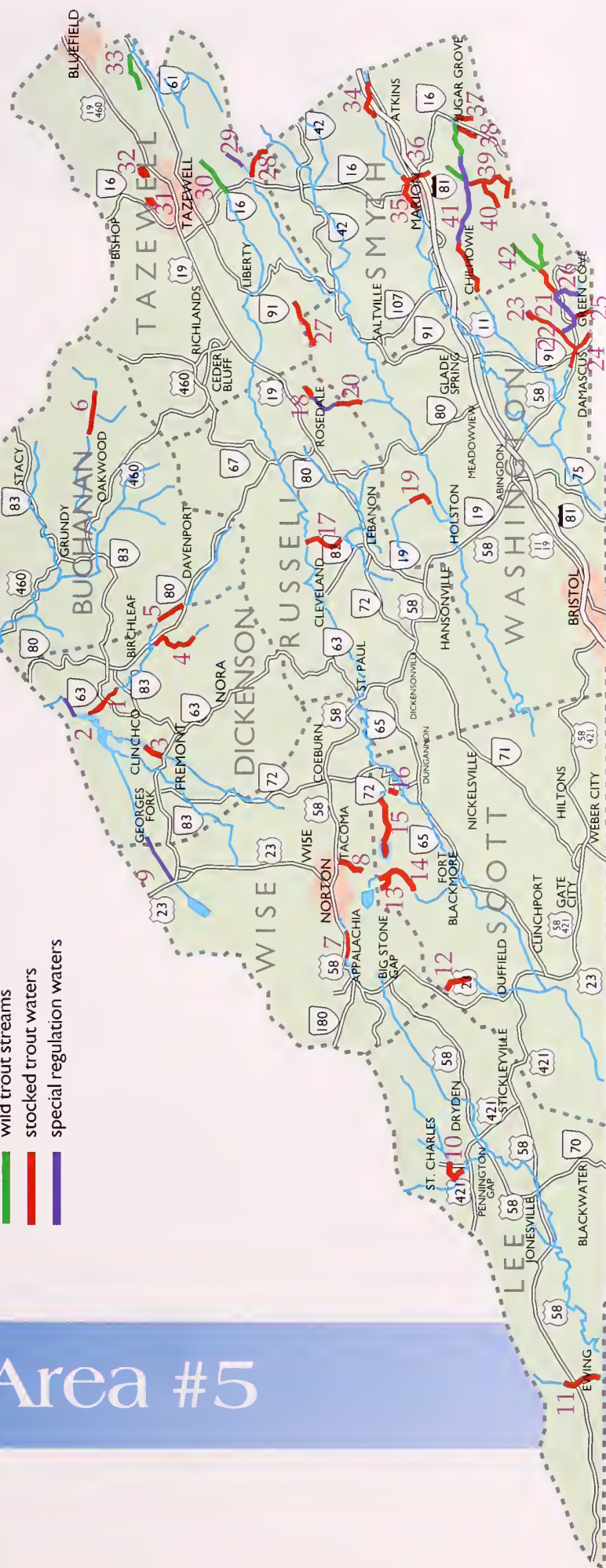
Grayson County

- (41) Hales Lakes
- (42) Elk Creek
- (43) Middle Fox Creek
- (44) Fox Creek
- (45) Big Wilson Creek
- (46) Helton Creek
- (47) Chestnut Creek

Area #5

Legend

- █ wild trout streams
- █ stocked trout waters
- █ special regulation waters



Dickenson County

- (1) Russell Fork River
- (2) Pound River
- (3) Granesnest River
- (4) Frying Pan Creek

Buchanan County

- (5) Russell Fork River
- (6) Dismal River

Wise County

- (7) Middle Fork Powell River
- (8) Clear Creek
- (9) Pound River/ N. Fk. Pound River

Lee County

- (10) N. Fk. Powell River
- (11) Martins Creek

Scott County

- (12) Stock Creek
- (13) Straight Fork
- (14) Big Stony Creek
- (15) Bark Camp Lake
- (16) Little Stony Creek

Russell County

- (17) Big Cedar Creek
- (18) Laurel Bed Lake

Washington County

- (19) Big Brumley Creek
- (20) Big Tumbling Creek
- (21) Whitetop Laurel
- (22) Straight Branch
- (23) Beartree Lake
- (24) Tennessee Laurel
- (25) Valley Creek
- (26) Green Cove Creek

Tazewell County

- (27) Little Tumbling Creek
- (28) Laurel Creek
- (29) Roaring Fork
- (30) Maiden Spring Creek
- (31) Lake Witten
- (32) Lincolnshire Lake
- (33) Cove Creek

Smyth County

- (34) Middle Fk. Holston River (Upper)
- (35) Middle Fk. Holston River (Marion)
- (36) Staley Creek
- (37) Cressy Creek
- (38) Dickey Creek
- (39) Comers Creek
- (40) Hurricane Creek
- (41) S. Fk. Holston River
- (42) Little Laurel Creek



Journal

2004 Outdoor Calendar of Events

February 8-11: Ole' Timey Tanning Workshop. Holiday Lake 4-H Center, Appomattox, Va. Call 434-248-5444 or www.ext.vt.edu/resources/4h/holiday/adultprograms.html.

February 29-March 3: Decoy Carving Workshop. Holiday Lake 4-H Center, Appomattox, Va. Call 434-248-5444 or www.ext.vt.edu/resources/4h/holiday/adultprograms.html. □



Book Review by Marika Byrd

Trout Stream Fly Fishing
Harry Murray
Paperback, 104 pages with color photos and illustrations
ISBN: 1-57188-281-2
\$9.95 plus \$4.00 for tax and shipping from Shenandoah Publishing Company, P. O. Box 156, Edinburg, VA 22824

The well-known fishing guru, Harry Murray, has written this little gem which tells those who are into trout fishing the how, why, when, and where to snag that hard-to-get-hold-of-trout. The book covers fly tackle and fly casting, the fish and streams, natural foods, spotting the elusive fish, tactics for early-season,

late-spring and summer as well as the lovely, colorful fall of the year. The valuable information is written in an easy to understand manner and its compact size slips easily into that pocket or tackle box for those times when you wish you had information to help bring in that elusive target in the stream.

Trout fishing aficionados, even beginners, can reap rewards from the various challenges by using Mother Nature's water classroom. Included are tips on streams, fly rods, reels, lines, wearing apparel, equipment and gadgets that will help the fly fisher to gain the edge while in or along the stream. Also, you can find "Leader Tippet Comparing X Code and Diameter" chart and some formulas. The Natural Trout Foods section includes very colorful pictures of flies from the Eastern to the Midwest and the Western selections.

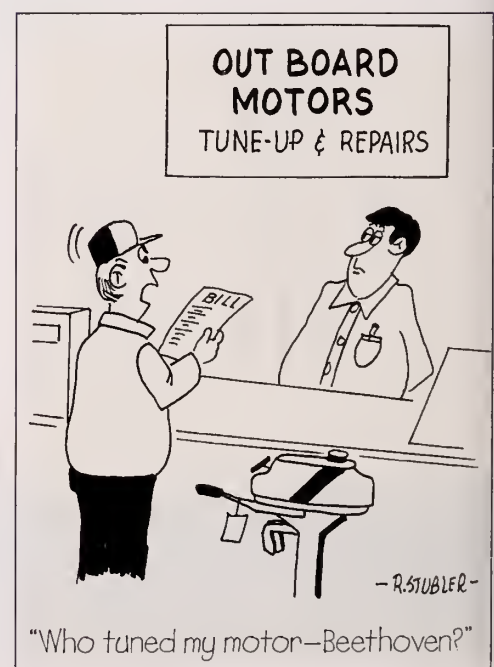
Many of the wonderful color photographs were taken by the author on his trips around this county, and particularly in Virginia, over his many years in the fishing arena.

This little jewel is a nice "I thought you might like to read" gift, a wonderful guide to refresh an angler's education about fly fishing, or a guide to spur that inexperienced angler to consider improving his or her skills in the outdoors.

Fort A.P. Hill Army Installation

Fort A.P. Hill (FAPH) is a 76,000-acre Army Installation located in Caroline County, approximately 35 miles north of Richmond, Virginia and 20 miles southeast of Fredericksburg. Two impoundments (Beaver Dam and Buzzards Roost) will be

stocked once a week with rainbow trout from January 10-April 30, 2004. Stocked trout will average 12 to 14 inches, with many trout stocked at trophy sizes (16 to 22 inches). Beaver Dam and Buzzards Roost are 7.6 and 10.5 acres, respectively. Both waters provide excellent fishing opportunities for bank anglers, and are equipped with boat ramps for those anglers wanting to fish from a boat (electric motors only). Anglers fishing for trout are required to possess a valid Virginia state fishing license, FAPH fishing and trout permit (Virginia trout stamp is not required). For more information about the FAPH trout stocking program, contact the Game Check Station at (804) 633-8244, the Natural Resources Office at (804) 633-8750, or e-mail the Installation fisheries biologist at Brian_Lee@belvoir.army.mil. Additional trout and general fishing information may be viewed at www.aphill.army.mil. □



RECIPES

by Joan Cone

It's Time for Winter Trout

Three beautiful species of trout can be caught all winter in the Old Dominion. Brook trout, noted for their beauty, are found only in cold water. Rainbows, introduced from the Pacific Coast, can stand slightly warmer water. Brown trout, closely related to Atlantic salmon, are more heat tolerant.

This meal can feature any trout.

Menu

Oyster-Mushroom Bisque
Tortilla Baked Trout
Swiss Chard Fettuccine
Easy Canned Peach Crisp

Oyster-Mushroom Bisque

- 1 pint shucked standard oysters with liquor
- 1/4 cup butter or margarine
- 1 tablespoon flour
- 1 quart milk
- 1 can (10 3/4 ounces) condensed golden mushroom soup
- 1/4 teaspoon instant minced onion
- Salt and pepper to taste

Place oysters and liquor in a small pan and bring to a boil; remove from heat. In a large pan, melt butter and blend in flour. Slowly stir in milk. Cook over medium heat, stirring constantly, until mixture just reaches boiling point. Reduce heat and blend in soup. Add onion, oysters with liquor, salt and pepper. Heat but do not boil. Makes 6 servings, 1 cup each.

Tortilla Baked Trout

- 1 1/2 pounds trout fillets
- 2 tablespoon fresh lemon juice
- Salt and pepper to taste
- 1/4 teaspoon dried thyme leaves

- 1/2 cup grated sharp Cheddar cheese
- 1/2 cup crushed tortilla chips
- 1 tablespoon butter or margarine, melted

Preheat oven to 375° F. Lightly grease a large, shallow baking dish. Wipe fillets with paper toweling and place in dish. Pour lemon juice over fish; sprinkle with salt, pepper and thyme. Bake, uncovered, for 7 to 10 minutes. Meanwhile, combine cheese and crushed chips. Sprinkle fish with cheese mixture, then melted butter. Bake 7 to 10 minutes longer or until fish flakes easily when tested with a fork. Serves 4.

Note: When chips become broken at end of the bag, crush them with a rolling pin.

Swiss Chard Fettuccine

- 1 pound Swiss chard
- 1 tablespoon olive oil
- Garlic powder to taste
- 1/4 cup chopped onion
- 2 large tomatoes, chopped
- 1/2 cup sour cream
- 1/2 cup milk
- 1/4 cup grated Parmesan cheese
- 8 ounces fettuccine, cooked according to package directions
- Salt and pepper to taste

Wash Swiss chard and cut into small pieces. Heat oil in large 2-quart saucepan over medium-high heat for 1 to 2 minutes. Add Swiss chard, garlic powder

and onion. Cook 1 to 2 minutes, stirring occasionally. Add tomatoes, sour cream, milk, cheese, cooked fettuccine, pepper and salt; stir well. Serve warm. Makes 4 servings.

Easy Canned Peach Crisp

- 1 can (29 ounces) sliced peaches in heavy or lite syrup, drained
- 1/3 cup flour
- 1/3 cup firmly packed brown sugar
- 1/3 cup quick or old fashioned oats
- 1/3 cup chopped walnuts (optional)
- 1/2 teaspoon cinnamon
- 1/4 cup butter or margarine, melted

Place fruit in a 1-quart shallow baking dish. Combine flour, sugar, oats, nuts and cinnamon. Mix in butter until crumbly; sprinkle over fruit. Bake at 375° F. for 30 minutes or until golden brown. Serve with ice cream, if desired. Makes 4 servings. □





On The Water

by Jim Crosby

Beware of The Killer Aboard

The silent killer aboard our recreational vessels is gaining in notoriety as it completes its dirty work more and more often. Lurking there silently and invisible, it strikes without warning killing all within its breath.

A by-product of internal combustion engines, carbon monoxide (CO) is an odorless, colorless, tasteless gas that can be deadly. It is absorbed by the lungs and reacts with blood hemoglobin to form carboxyhemoglobin that reduces the blood's ability to carry oxygen. Our blood accepts CO 200 times faster than oxygen. As a result, even low levels of CO can cause significant displacement of oxygen in the blood. The heart, brain and other vital organs must have a continuous flow of oxygenated blood to survive. Even at very low levels of concentration one can suffer headache, drowsiness, itchy eyes and nausea. Early signs of carbon monoxide poisoning are often mistaken for seasickness. When the concentration gets high enough, death occurs.

The U.S. Coast Guard has recently found that up to 15 percent of all boating-related drownings could involve carbon monoxide poisoning. On a boat there are numerous sources of CO, such as a gasoline engine, gasoline generator, propane, and charcoal. These are fuels that we depend on to get us to and from our destination, keep us cool, provide electricity and heat or cool our food.

CO becomes dangerous when it collects within and around a boat. CO can enter the cabin of a boat from different sources including: hot water heaters, galley stoves, improper ventilation while in motion, and

exhaust leaks on your boat as well as from moored vessels nearby. CO can collect around a boat in areas such as: the swim platform, which is generally close to the engine exhaust, and areas where boat overhangs can pocket air.

According to the National Safe Boating Council, teak surfing or dragging is a dangerous new activity where a swimmer holds on to the swim platform while being dragged through the water. This activity puts a person in direct proximity to inhale high concentrations of CO, not to mention, the danger of the rotating prop.

Some simple precautions from BoatU.S. to avoid exposure to CO:

- Avoid known locations where the gas can be present.
- Have regular maintenance done on your engine and exhaust system by a trained technician.
- Install a CO detector in the cabin of a boat.
- Be aware that CO can accumulate when a boat is running its engine

or generator while at a dock or seawall.

- Open hatches and keep fresh air circulating throughout the boat to avoid exhaust fumes from reentering the aft part of the boat – the station wagon effect.
- Turn off the engine or generator when people swim near the boat. Take your passengers water skiing instead of teak surfing.
- Be aware that if a passenger has the symptoms of seasickness it could be CO poisoning and they should immediately be moved to fresh air.
- Get a vessel safety check from the Coast Guard Auxiliary or a U.S. Power Squadron.

While protecting yourself from all the dangers, you must always remember that boating is still one of the healthiest activities you can find.

Author's Note: I always enjoy feedback in the form of comments and suggestions. Please e-mail me at: jimcrosby@aol.com ☐



artwork ©Jim Crosby



story and illustration
by Spike Knuth

Naturally Wild



Fallfish *Semotilus corporalis*

An angler fights a fish in the fast moving water of a Virginia trout stream. His expectation is to bring a native brook trout, rainbow or brown trout to net. However, as he lifts the fish out, he finds he has hooked something else. Virginia's trout streams contain a variety of fish species other than trout. Many of them readily hit artificial lures or live bait. One such species that a trout angler will come in contact with is the fallfish.

The fallfish is so named because it often frequents pools below falls, although it is not confined to those areas. They inhabit cold, clear streams and medium-sized rivers with gravel, rubble or sandy bottoms. In parts of their range, they may inhabit some lakes. Their range extends from the Canadian Maritimes westward across Ontario and south to Maryland, Delaware and the northern two-thirds of Virginia.

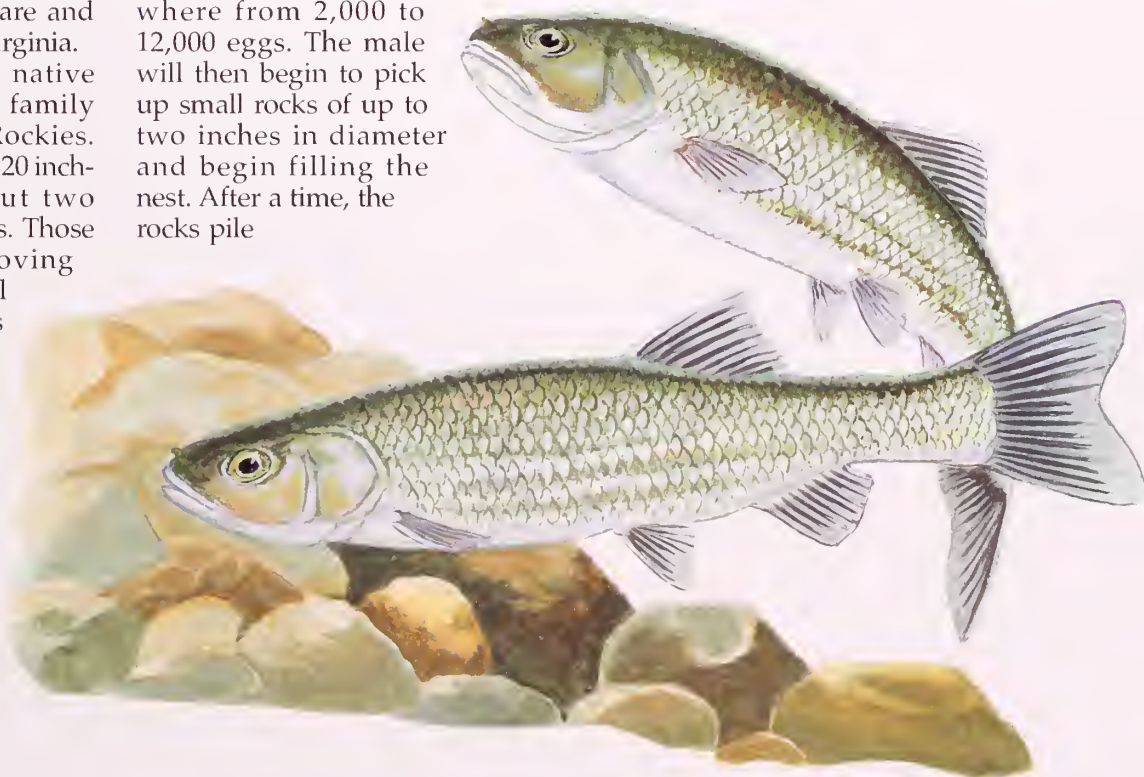
Fallfish are the largest native members of the minnow family Cyprinidae, east of the Rockies. They reach a length of about 20 inches and a weight of about two pounds; more in some lakes. Those that live in cold, fast-moving streams are smaller, but still may reach 10 to 14 inches and a weight of nearly a pound. Most are caught incidental to trout fishing. To the serious trout angler fallfish are a nuisance, but to others it is considered a game fish that's fun to catch.

The fallfish is a slender, elongated, slightly flat-sided fish with silvery-green or silvery-gold sides with a dark, olive-brown back, and silvery white undersides. It has a blunt head with a large mouth giving it a sucker-like appearance. It is often mistaken for a common sucker. Adult fallfish have a series of dark bars at the base of each scale giving it a checkered look. Sometimes the sides have a rosy iridescence. Spawning males in spring have reddish lower fins and medium-sized tubercles on its head. The fallfish is closely related to the creek chub.

Fallfish spawn from April through June. An adult male will excavate a spot in the gravel, and clean it out. The female will deposit her eggs in the nest, which are fertilized by the male. Depending on her size, the female will release anywhere from 2,000 to 12,000 eggs. The male will then begin to pick up small rocks of up to two inches in diameter and begin filling the nest. After a time, the rocks pile

up in a conical shaped mound of anywhere from one to two feet high and a diameter of three to six feet in diameter. A single nest may contain a mound of rocks that weigh 200 pounds or more.

Once hatched, the young fallfish feed mainly on zooplankton and phytoplankton. Larger fish feed mainly on insects, both aquatic and terrestrial. Mayflies, stoneflies, beetles, wasps, ants, crayfish, algae and smaller fish are all on the menu of the fallfish. While not considered a food fish, some regard their flesh as firm and sweet and good when deep-fried in much the same way as smelt or herring. The fallfish is just another of the "naturally wild" treasures of Virginia freshwater streams. □



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